National Surveillance System (NSS)
Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan

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Round Two Surveillance Reports Samangan Province

(data collection: Spring 2004)

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Samangan Province Round 2 Reports

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Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation & Development,
Ministry of Agriculture & Animal Husbandry &
Ministry of Health

Samangan
Surveillance
Unit

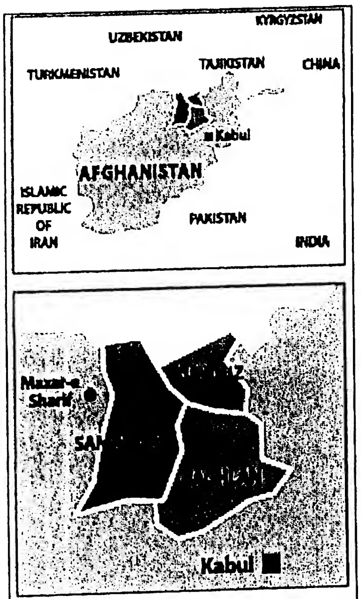
Aybak District

**Chochman
Sentinel site**

Summer 2004

SUMMARY FINDINGS FOR CHOCHMAN SENTINEL SITE IN EASTHERN HAZRAT SULTAN DISTRICT

(These findings are based on field survey of 20 households and Chochman village leaders interview. These findings should not be assumed to representative of other parts of Afghanistan)



By G. Maxwell

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Food Security

- Crop production has fallen considerably 2004 compared to the 2003 crop season. The 2003, harvest reported to be a normal harvest year with farmers averaging from 1 to 1.9 tons per hectare. This year with poor rainfall at the beginning and at the end of the cycle and locust damage, average wheat yield were between 500 to 900 kg/hectare. On the same line, the average land accessed by all households has decreased from 1216 jiribs of land to 1129 jiribs of land in 2004.
- Less (10%) households consider that food situation was worse than one year ago compared to 2003. Yet, more (20%) households felt they were not able to buy/cultivate enough food six months prior to the survey compared to that of 2003. On average all households combined had a dietary diversity score of 1.5 in 2003 against 2.1 with an increase of dietary diversity by 0.6 in 2004.

Risk to Lives

- The crude mortality rate is not above both the emergency threshold rate of deaths people per day compare to 2003. But is above the normal developing country level of deaths people per day. Furthermore, for children under five years of age, the mortality rate does not compare favorably with the stable developing country rate, and is higher than the emergency threshold rate of deaths people per day. The current rate increase of water, bloody diarrhea and the Acute Respiratory Infections of children under five years of age is serious concern for the village. This survey demonstrates that the children of Chochman were in conditions of poor health that are both preventable and treatable.

Livelihood Security

- In 2003 women's income activities were only carpets, and gifts. In contrast, in 2004, trade of natural resource collection, agricultural day labour, non-agricultural labour and raising livestock were popular income sources for "poor" and "middle" income women households.

What is the NSS?

The National Surveillance System monitors trends in key indicators in order to predict early signs of change and deterioration in livelihoods, food security and nutrition. In conjunction with other complementary data collection systems, the NSS provides relevant data for prioritizing limited resources and designing programs.

Methodology

The NSS is based on a sentinel site system, in which provincial level ministries follow a rotating cohort of households' overtime. Sites are selected so that they mirror the majority of the communities with respect to agro-ecological features, economic activities, available services and people in a given area (livelihood / agro-ecological zone). Because of the diversity of livelihoods in Afghanistan, even in rural areas, information from the sentinel may not be representative of every village in the zone. However, it is likely, that the data from one sentinel site can signal concern for other villages in the same zone (See Annex I for detailed information on methodology).

FOOD SECURITY – CHOCHMAN

CROP PRODUCTION

The Samangan province has great potential for growing mostly temperate fruit crops and various tropical spices, as well as, a wide variety of cereal crops including: wheat, rice and barley. Nevertheless, natural hazards (drought, locust invasions) combined with old-fashion farming practices limit the production. Rural and semi-rural areas in Afghanistan remain highly dependant on subsistence agriculture for households' consumption. As a result, the reduction of the harvest will affect seasonal agricultural labour patterns in rural areas. Thus reducing labour and income opportunities by placing greater economic strains on households that would eventually force them to purchase wheat at higher prices. The annual wheat production required for Hazrat Sultan district population of 54 000 people is estimated to be 19,300 metric tones per year. This does not include amount of seeds that households will keep for planting in the next growing season.

Area planted

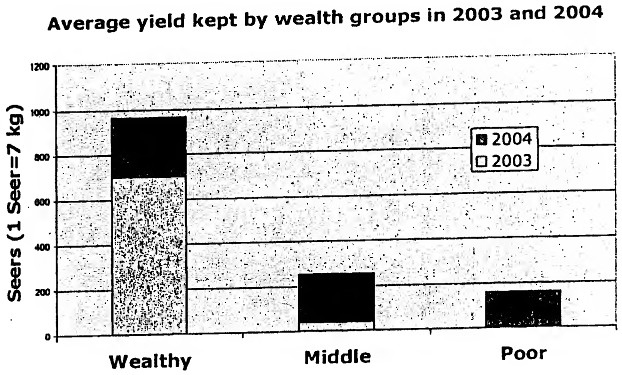
Chochman	All households		Wealthy		Middle		Poor	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
% household owning rainfed land	85	90	100	100	100	93	67	100
average jiribs accessed land	1216	1129	232	212	738	652	246	265

Land access and ownership is the key prerequisite for agricultural production.
As shown in the table on the right, the data gathered show that cultivated land varied from season to season and year to year. On the same line, the average land accessed by all households has decreased from 1216 jiribs of land to 1129 jiribs of land in 2004. However, the percentage of households owning rainfed land has increased by 5%. The "wealthy" household average of access jiribs decreased from 232 jiribs to 212 in 2004. In contrast, the middle household average access land has decreased from 738 to 652 jiribs, where the poor households increased from 246 to 265 jiribs in 2004. Though draft oxen are extremely important to household crop production, in Chochman no households owned oxen.

Wheat Production (Yield)

Agricultural production is the most important source of income with 90% of households engaging in crop production. As some of the household do not own land or some are sharecroppers. The amount of yield kept by households can differ from the actual harvest.

The graph to the right, presents the average amount of yield retained by the household in 2003 and 2004. It is disaggregated by wealth in order to understand relative differences in food availability by socio-economic groups. The "wealthy" average wheat yield is estimated at 265 Seers against 700 Seers in 2003 and with a drop of 62%. Middle household wheat yield totaled 214 Seers against 40 Seers in 2003 and with an increase of 81%. However, poor household wheat yield was estimated at 158 Seers against zero in 2003. However, this graph does not necessarily represent the food security.



ASSESSMENT OF CROP LOSSES

Crop production has fallen considerably this year compared to the 2003 crop season. The 2003, harvest reported to be a normal harvest year with farmers averaging from 1 to 1.9 tons per hectare. This year with poor rainfall at the beginning and at the end of the cycle, average wheat yield were between 500 to 900 kg/hectare. During this crop season the situation was exacerbated by locusts, smut diseases and Sunn pest; which destroyed wheat in several districts in the Samangan province. Overall losses were due to locust damage in rainfed areas that have been estimated to be 20% in the Samangan provinces. In contrast, the overall losses by locust and drought damage in irrigated land have estimated to be 23% in Samangan (GOAL-Locust impact assessment report 2004).

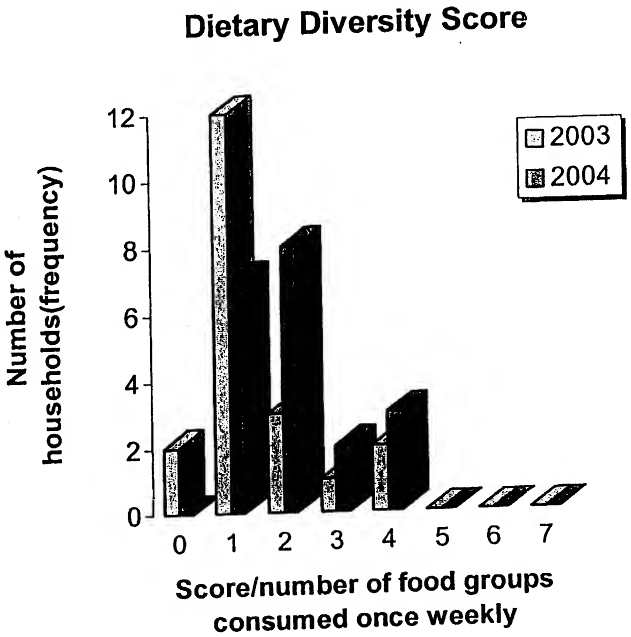
FOOD SECURITY PERCEPTION
In 2003, 25% of households felt they were not able to buy/cultivate enough food four months prior to the survey. 10% of households considered that the food situation was worse than one year ago. Household enumerators thought that all poor households did not have enough food to last through the winter. In contrast in 2004, 45% of those from poor households felt they were not able to buy/cultivate enough food in the past six months. Enumerators observed that only 40% of households (95% poor households) did not appear to have enough food to survive for the next six months. None of the interviewed households thought the food security would get worse over the next six months, though many expressed uncertainty about how they could predict changes in food security within their homes.

PERCEPTION OF FOOD SECURITY INDICATORS	**2003** (%)	**2004** (%)	**Change** (%)
Consider food situation to be **worse** in comparison to 4/6 months ago	0	0	0
Consider food situation to be **worse** than one year ago	10	0	10
Considered food situation not to be sufficient at time of survey	25	45	20
Worried where their food was coming at the time of survey	0	0	0
Expect the food situation to be **worse** in the next 4/6 months	0	0	0
Enumerators thought households did not have enough food for the next 4/6 months	45	40	5

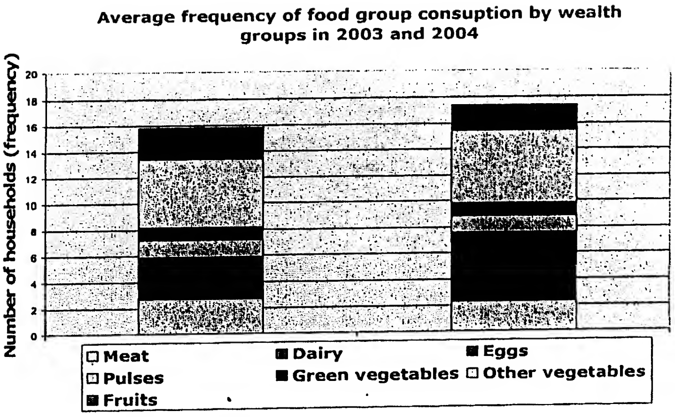
DIETARY DIVERSITY – DIET QUALITY

Household dietary diversity scores are summarized in the graph on the right. *The diversity score is calculated by attributing a score of "1" to each food group that was eaten at least once week by a household. Households with a higher diversity score have a more diverse diet.* Surveys repeated throughout the country indicate that most households consume cereals or grains on a daily basis, thus, cereals were not included in the diet diversity score. On average all households combined had a dietary diversity score of 1.5 in 2003 against 2.1 with an increase of dietary diversity by 0.6 in 2004.

The histogram on the right shows that in 2004, most households (8 and 7 households) scored "2" and " 1' respectively. In contrast, in 2003, 12 households scored "1" and 3 households scored "2". Furthermore, in both years, none of the households scored "5", "6" and "7". Diversity scores are relatively or slightly different between wealth groups. 'The 'wealthy" group scored of 3.8 against 2.7 in 2003; whereas "middle" group scored 2.1 against 1.8 in 2003 and the poor wealth group scored 1.2 against 1.3 in 2003. These results suggest that wealthy households either have the means to buy more expensive foods or, do acquire a preference for a more diverse diet.



The graph on the right reflects the average frequency of consumption for food. The data shows that all households are eating protein rich foods (meat, milk, eggs and pulse) at least once a month to once a week to complement cereals (wheat and barley). However, the data indicates a slight increase on dairy product and other vegetable consumption in 2004. This could well be a seasonal change. However this data does not allow inferences regarding protein sufficiency.


Average frequency of food group consuption by wealth groups in 2003 and 2004

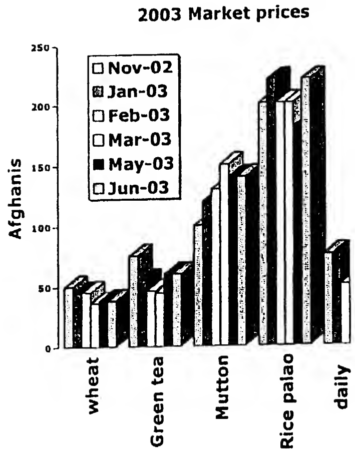
As the data regarding quantities and consumption practices were not collected, no inferences can be made regarding the adequacy of vitamin and mineral intakes. Nonetheless, this data suggests that the areas that need additional research include:

1. Vitamin A sufficiency (animal sources and beta-carotene from plant sources);
2. Calcium sufficiency (milk and water, most water is hard, sources), and;
3. Vitamin C sufficiency (fresh plant sources).

These concerns are based on the frequency of consumption reported by households and the limited availability of these foods compared to other items.

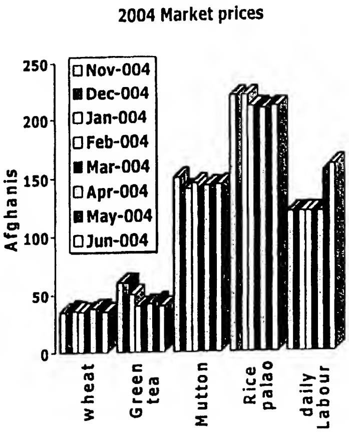
MARKET ACCESS

Aybak city is the closest food market to Chochman, which is accessible by foot or vehicle (two hours by foot or donkey).The road built by GOAL is in relatively good condition. According to this survey, some travel by vehicle (150 Af's per trip) but the cost may vary according to the person's location in the village. Most Chochman residents access Aybak market to trade wheat and livestock, and also purchase food and non-food items. Market transactions are cash based and most households send one person to the market on market days (Mondays and Thursdays, weekly). The market is open year-round and is one of the most important trading locations for local districts, Samangan and the surrounding provinces.


2003 Market prices

MARKET PRICES

As data shows no significant price changes have shown between the two survey. Chochman households rely on Aybak market for food and non-food items. More than 50% of households purchase wheat. Wheat prices have been stable over the past year and impact daily labour rates since many workers are paid wheat for work. When prices decrease, while labour rates increase, it becomes more profitable to work for wheat compared to growing your own crop.


2004 Market prices

As shown on the graph to the left, wheat and green tea prices have been stable this year. However, daily labour rates increased from March 2003 reaching a peak of 200 Af's per day in June. Rates then began decreasing in November. The same trends held for both rice and mutton. Rice reached a peak of 220 Af's per Kg from January, June and November 2003 and January 2004. Mutton prices reached a maximum price of 150 Af's in January, March and November 2003.

The mutton and rice increases directly impact village food security; since these are staple food items. Households also purchase vegetable items (potatoes, spring onions, okra and carrots) from the Aybak market: prices have remained steady. There are seasonal shortages of some vegetables, though this does not seem to impact vegetable prices nor is there a demanded increase during the off-season. Households simply purchase what is available at that time in the market.

LIVESTOCK

The availability of adequate supply of water for human, livestock consumption, and for crops is a major recurring problem for most households. Livestock, particularly cattle rearing, traditionally holds a major economic and social place in the region; as it provides 30% of households income sources. However, animal numbers fluctuate widely from one year to the next as most people tend to invest their savings in livestock in good years while, the sale of animals acts as a cushion during the years of poor harvest.

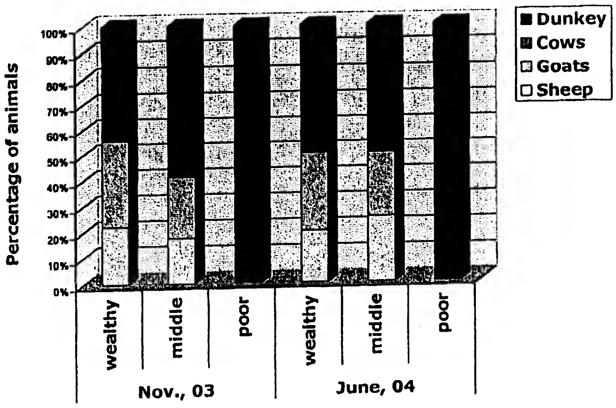
As shown the table on the right, even though in many parts of Samangan the livestock has been hit by the destruction of grazing land caused by drought and locust damage. In Chochman both the percent of household owning livestock (sheep and goats) and the average number of livestock (sheep and goats) per household; has increased in 2004 comparing to that of 2003.

	% households owning livestock		Average number of livestock	
	Nov 2003	June 2004	Nov 2003	June 2004
Sheep	25	30	12	23
Goats	35	40	9	12
Cows	15	15	2	1.5
Donkeys	85	85	2	1.5

Livestock ownership is a source of income for 30% households in the area. Of these households, mostly 20% were from "wealthy" and 10% were from "middle" income households.

As indicated the graph on the right the percentage of wealthy and middle households that own animals have increased in 2004, in comparison with 2003. 14% and 18% of middle households own sheep and goats in 2004, in contrast the percentage of wealthy owing sheep and goats stayed the same. Furthermore, in 2004, more than 25% of new wealthy households have cows, in contrast less households (29%) of middle income own cows. However, the percentage of households owning donkeys stayed the same for all households.

Percentage of households with livestock by wealth groups in 2003 and 2004



Reflecting the poor quality of pastures which were seriously affected by both locust and poor rainfall in many parts of the area,. Animals are in poor condition. As early in January 2004, some households started selling five live goats and four sheep, on the same line, six sheep and ten goats were killed in order to avoid losses. Animal livestock does need to be replenished through longer-term breeding programmes, credit initiatives and by loans or other schemes that will allow the farmer to access to funds in order to purchase new animals.

Livestock disease

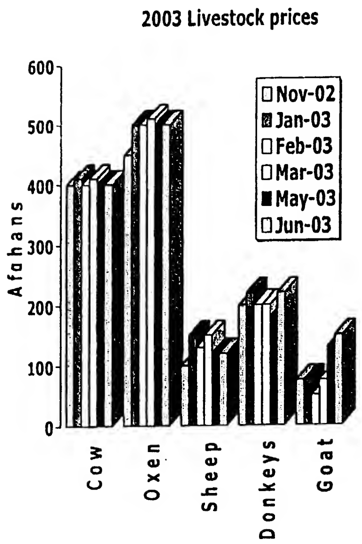
When asked about prevalence to livestock diseases, the male village leaders noted that their sheep and goats were affected by Sheep Pox and their cattle had foot and mouth disease. In 2003, a total of 1,200 sheep and goats were owned by the people of Chochman. 110 reported being affected by Sheep Pox. In contrast, in 2004 the total number of goats and sheep were said to be 10000 and 800 heads (8%) were infected by Krim Jiger (3%) and Sheep box (5%).

The cattle owned in the village of Chochman are 100 heads against 40 head of cows in 2003. In 2004, 40% of the cattle were said to be infected with Foot and Mouth Desease, whereas in 2003, 75% of the 40 cattle were said to be infected with Foot and Mouth Disease. Since, both of these diseases are deadly, households should have offered evidence that some of their herd had died recently, but this was not the case. Therefore, it is unlikely that Sheep Pox is as prevalent as village leaders noted. Additionally, it is unlikely that all cattle and oxen suffered from Foot and Mouth, though the disease has some presence in the area as it has been a problem in the past. Livestock owners in Chochman and surrounding areas have not yet had their animals vaccinated and thus their livestock are at risk of suffering from disease outbreaks.

No vaccinations have occurred in the last six months, though a veterinary clinic and hospital does exist in Aybak city. Medicines are not available provincially to treat the condition, and vaccinations are the most effective way to prevent animal losses.

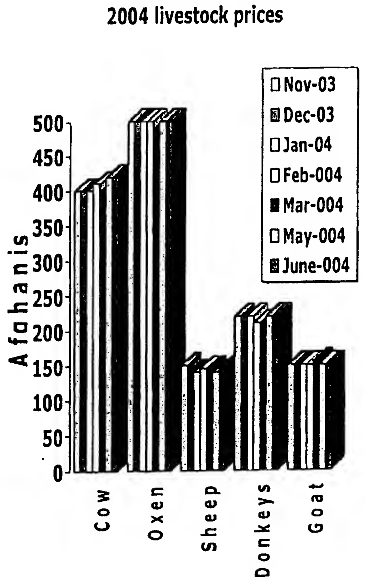
Livestock Prices

Chochman and surrounding villages rely on the Aybak city market livestock sales and purchase.



As seen on the left and right, both qaraqal sheep and cow prices remained stable from November 2002 until January 2004. However, oxen prices increased between February and January 2004. Goat prices were stable at approximately $150, with seasonal variation.

Donkeys are considered the second most important animal to own, and prices tended to remain stable around $220, though some seasonal variation existed.



Grazing land and Access to Water

Chochman and surrounding area is relatively hostile and fragile, and market by the scarcity of water resources. The climatic constraints are severe, and continue to reduce by rainfall from one year to another. According to village leaders, access to grazing land has decreased in the last six months prior to the survey. Grassland productivity was similar to previous years, while access to water has decreased this year. However, water shortages between 1999 and 2002 did play a role in subsequent animal losses. Unfortunately, local authorities were not able to use changes in grassland and water access, to predict future threats to livestock. Increased awareness of threats to grazing land access might have allowed communities to protect themselves better against drought related animal losses. In addition, common grazing land is sometimes compromised by illegal cultivation of rainfed wheat. This practice can also compromises community animal stocks.

RISKS TO LIVES -CHOCHMAN

The risk to lives section of this report highlights areas in the country where individuals are more at risk of dying and understanding the reasons behind this increased risk. It particularly focuses on the better understanding the links between nutritional risk, food insecurity and mortality.

MORTALITY INDICATORS:

The current crude mortality rate (CMR) of 0.9 is less than November 2003 rate. 0.9 is not the above the emergency threshold rate of 1.0 deaths/10,000 of people per day, but is above the normal developing country level of 0.5 deaths/10,000 people per day. Furthermore, children under five years of age have a mortality rate of 2.2 which does not compare favourably, with the stable developing rate of 1.0 deaths/10,000 people per day and the emergency threshold rate of 2.0 deaths/10,000 people per day.

Because of the high rate of maternal and child mortality in Afghanistan, this study also looked at the number of children who had a skilled birth attendant present at delivery as a proxy for risk to lives of both the mothers giving birth and the new infants. Of the number of children born in the last six months, the percentage of births attended by a skilled birth attendant was 10%. This figure, however, is not likely to include stillbirths or children who died during the last four months, as a result of the difficulty of obtaining such information.

RISKS TO LIVES INDICATORS	Nov. 2003 (%)	June 2004 (%)	Change (%)
Mortality Indicators			
Crude mortality in last 4/6 months (Deaths / 10, 000 / day)	1.9	0.9	1
Under 5 mortality in last 4/6 months (Deaths / 10, 000 / day)	3.9	2.2	1.7
Births in last 4 months attended by a Skilled Birth Attendant (n=8)	10	10	0
Morbidity Indicators			
Children < 5 years with watery diarrhoea (n=25)	15	17	2
Children < 5 years with bloody diarrhoea (n=25)	3.8	4.3	0.5
Children < 5 with ARI (n=25)	23	30	7
Children between 6 and 59 months with measles vaccination (n=21)	84	87	3
Child Anthropometric Status (WFH % of median and MUAC)			
Children with global acute malnutrition (Oedema/Severe/Moderate) (n=42) (n=26)	9.1	8.7	0.4
Children > 6 months and <59 months with Oedema (n=21)	0	0	0
Children > 6 and <59 months with severe acute malnutrition (n=21)	0	0	0
Children > 6 and <59 months with moderate acute malnutrition (n=21)	1.9	8.7	6.8
Children > 1 year and <59 months with a MUAC under 13.5 cm (n=21)	4.5	17.4	12.9
Children > 1 year and <59 months with a MUAC under 12 cm (n=21)	0	0	0
Adult Women Anthropometric Status			
Reproductive age women (15-49 years) with a MUAC < 23.0 cm (n=23)	27	17	10
Reproductive age women (15-49 years) with a MUAC < 21.0 cm (n=23)	9.1	8.3	0.8
Micronutrient Deficiencies			
Households with iodised salt (only includes households with salt) (n=20)	0	30	30
Households with salt	100	100	0

MORBIDITY INDICATORS:

The morbidity indicators included in the surveillance system are associated with a risk of mortality and are the primary causes of death for children under five years of age in Afghanistan. The incidence of watery diarrhoea among children under five years of 17% against 15% in November 2003 is *cause of concern*. The presence of bloody diarrhoea in 4.3% against 3.8 in November 2003 (or an increase of 0.5%) of the children in the village indicates a more serious concern. Many of the cases of diarrhoeal disease might be attributed to hygiene practices and a shortage of water. The percent of children under five suffering from Acute Respiratory Infections is 30% against 23 % in November, 2003 with an increase of 7% is serious concern. Measles vaccination coverage in Afghanistan is 95%, and MOH figures for the Hazrat Sultan district report coverage to be 85%. Additionally, the measles vaccination coverage of 87% in this round of data, is consistent with district figure.

CHILDREN NUTRITIONAL STATUS:

Current 8.7 % against 9.1% in November, 2003 of children in the sampled have global acute malnutrition, this includes children under five years of age with oedema and a weight-for-height measurement below 80 % of the median to a reference population. Children with oedema are at an extremely high risk of dying. However, no children were found to be oedematous in either round data. Children below 70% are considered severely malnourished (acute) and also have a high risk of mortality. In Chochman, zero children were severely wasted. However, the percentage of children under five years of age with moderately wasted was found in this sample to be 8.3 against 1.9% November 2003 with an increase of 6.8% this does require an urgent response.

Low MUAC measurements also indicate children at risk of mortality. The presence of 16.7 % against 4.5% in November, 2003 with an increase of 12.9 % of children with a MUAC lower than 13.5 cm between one to five years of age. This is a high cause for concern for the village. No children had a MUAC of less than 12.0 cm.

ADULT WOMEN NUTRITIONAL STATUS:

Low MUACs in reproductive-age women has been associated with high child and maternal mortality which makes it an important indicator for increased risks to adult women mortality. In Chochman 29% of women have a MUAC below 23.0 cm, in contrast, 39% of women were reported having a MUAC below 23.0 cm in November, 2003 with a drop of 10%. Furthermore, currently 8.3% of women have reported a MUAC below 21.0 cm, in contrast 8.7% of women have reported a MUAC below 21.0 cm in November 2003. In addition to that 80% of women reported having breastfeeding problem.

MICRONUTRIENT DEFICIENCIES:

The presence of iodised salt in the house is a proxy for the use of it, and also therefore of its iodine deficiency. 30 % of households had iodised salt in this round of data, in comparison, no households had iodised salt; as all salt was locally mined block salt during the survey. However, the iodised salt is available in the local markets and there is a factory that produces iodised salt in Ghol mahalah, Shaberghan City, Jowzjan province.

HEALTH FACILITIES:

The table below lists the health facilities that are available to the people in the Chochman area. However, there are no health facilities in Chochan itself and all the residents of the neighbouring villages travel to Aybak City (Provincial Capital City) to use the health services. Aybak City has one main hospital and comprehensive health centres and a number of private doctors. People travel there with public transportation, the cost of getting to Aybak city from Chochman is about 150 Afs. In an urgent situation, people use a taxi which costs 1500 Afs for a round trip. Travel to Aybak is possible in all seasons, including winter.

In Chochman itself, there are number of traditional birth attendants (TBA) to help the village women with birth deliveries. The birth attendant usually comes to the woman's house to provide the services. The common custom of TBA in this village and the surrounding areas, is that there are no fixed charges for the TBA services. Every household pays what they are able to afford in accordance to their class in the community. The TBA fee ranges from nothing to 100 afs and can be paid in cash or kind. Many households in this village pay their TBA services by using food and non-food items.

All the government health services in Aybak City are free of charge, and as a result they are used largely by low and middle income families. The wealthy class of Chochman and the surrounding area go to private doctors who charge 40 afs per visit. Many people believe that the services of a private doctor are better than those of the government. If one is able to afford 40 afs he/she should go to the private doctor. Either way, medicine needs to be paid for in both cases. There are also skilled birth attendants in Aybak City hospitals and additionally there is a private service that people may use in the case of severe emergencies or complications. This type of private service is very expensive.

Health Facilities Table

	Location of facility	Time taken to reach facility	Cost of getting to the facility (Afs)	Access to facility	Facility Accessible in winter and Spring
Health posts	Aybak	Two to three hours	140	Everybody	Yes
Basic Health Centre	Aybak	Two to three hours	140	Everybody	Yes
Comprehensive Health Centre	Aybak	Two to three hours	140	Everybody	Yes
Hospital	Aybak	Two to three hours	140	Every body	Yes
Traditional healers/Birth Attendants	Chochman	Five minutes	140	women	Yes
Skilled birth attendant	Aybak	2-3 hours	140	Everybody	Yes
Private doctor			140	Everybody	Yes

The use of health facilities has stayed constant in the last four months.

Water sources:

In Chochman, the public sources of water are hand pumps, open wells, and Kandas (small men made earth dams). The earth dams are usually located near the mosques and in most cases it is the men of the family who bring water from the dam to the household. As a result of increased health awareness, the majority of the village people prefer to get their drinking water from hand pumps rather than from either the open wells or the Kandas (which are occasionally used by animals). The people reported that both from the Kanda and open wells the quality and the quantity of water available has stayed the same, in comparison with last year. However, the quality and the quantity of the hand pump have decreased in comparison to the last year.

Drinking Water Source Table

(Source listed in order of use)	Time taken for water collection	Quality change since last year	Quantity change since last year
Open well	30 minutes	Same	Same
Hand pump	30 minutes	Decreased	Decreased
Kanda	30 minutes	Same	Same

The number one priority for the village is to get more access to clean drinking water through the construction of more hand pumps and deep wells.

Sanitation Facilities:

There are three common types of toilets in the Chochman. Open area, vault latrine and traditional latrine. The majority of households have a traditional latrine toilet in their houses. The vault latrine is usually located in public places like schools and mosques and is always separate for men and women. The very low income households of Chochman who can not build a latrine have an open area toilet and they use the human manure as fertiliser on their crops.

CONCLUSION: RISKS TO LIVES

The crude mortality rate is not above both the emergency threshold rate of deaths people per day but is above the normal developing country level of deaths people per day. Furthermore, for children under five years of age, the mortality rate does not compare favourably with the stable developing country rate, and is higher than the emergency threshold rate of deaths people per day. This survey demonstrates that the children of Chochman were in conditions of poor health that are both preventable and treatable.

In Chochman, water and sanitation are completely inadequate. Presumably, the rates of both water and blood diarrhoea can be attributed to these two factors. This should be improved as soon as possible. In addition, adequate preventative and curative health facilities and services should be available and accessible to the village community.

A mass measles vaccination campaign is also needed in this village. Measles vaccination coverage is poor and is probably not stopping the measles virus transmission. Moreover, community training in public health is essential; as introducing the community to toilets and other sanitation programmes that will improve the condition of Chochman's health problem

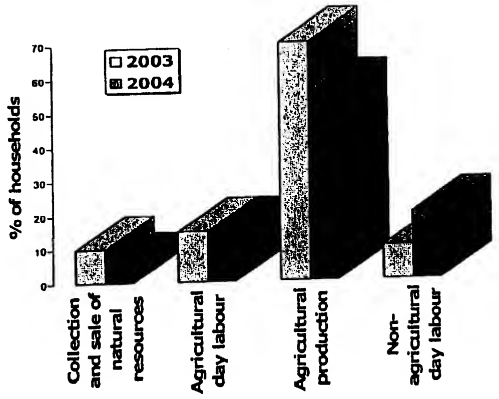
LIVELIHOOD SECURITY –CHOCHMAN

Livelihood Strategies:

The primary income sources of most households in Chochman during the survey period were agricultural crop production, non-agricultural day labour, agricultural day labour, and collection and sale of natural resources.

As shown in the graph on the right, there are changes in the primary income source in relation with seasonality. The percentage of households that were engaged in crop production and the collection and sale of natural resources, have reduced from 70% to 55% and from 10% to 5% in 2004. In contrast

Primary source of income for households



non-agricultural day labour, the percentage of households has increased from 10% to 20%, whereas the percentage of household that were engaged in agricultural day labour, has stayed the same.

The table below captures the percentage of households engaged in different activities. This provides an indication of the relative importance of different livelihood strategies to the community. With regards to seasonality changes, with exception of those engaged in informal wage labour, Spinning/carpet labour and the rental income, the rest of activities; the percentage of households who were engaged in 2003 have increased in 2004.

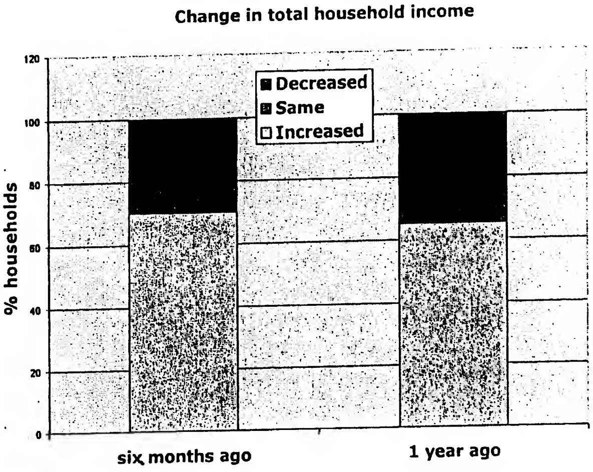
N=20 Households	**Percent of households with Income Source**		**Percentage of households with Women's Income Source**	
	2003	**2004**	**2003**	**2004**
Spinning/ carpets labour	0	0	20	20
Agricultural day labour	45	60	0	85
Agricultural livestock	40	30	15	40
Take a loan	30	50	0	30
Agricultural crops	80	90	0	45
Non-agriculture day labour	10	50	0	60
Collection–natural resources	65	30	7.5	20
Formal wage labour	5	5	0	5
Gifts/Gleaning	0	0	5	5

Data regarding women's income activities can clarify the role of women in current livelihoods strategies. It identifies potential for future involvement. In 2003 women's income activities were only carpets, and gifts. However, in 2004, trade, natural resource collection, agricultural day labour, non-agricultural labour and raising livestock were popular income sources for "poor" and "middle" income women households. Interestingly, women tended to see activities associated with men as less important. However, all women received money from gifts/gleaning, yet men of all wealth groups did not consider these a source of income. Female run households were very poor. The main problem is illiteracy, unemployment, poor infrastructure, and a lack of resources. A number of widows have received wool material from GOAL for making gillams and carpets

LIVELIHOOD SHOCKS:

GENERAL LIVELIHOOD SHOCKS or CONSTRAINTS:

The graph on the right shows that 10% of the households' income has decreased for the last six months to compare to a year ago. In the previous year, 15% of households' incomes stayed the same, and in contrast 10% of households income stayed the same for the past six months. Income increases followed the same trend: Only 70% households reported an increase in the last six months, compared to 65% in the previous year. Furthermore, 20% of households reported income decrease in both surveyed. Households with steady incomes did not share similar livelihoods, thus it does not appear that a specific shock is responsible. Instead, this might be a normal variation.

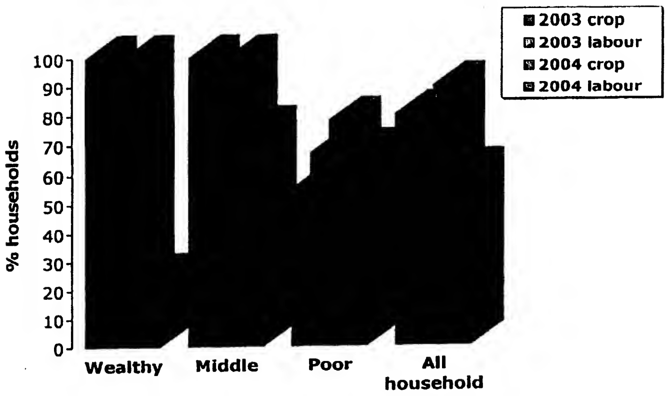


Crop production and agricultural daily labour:

Agricultural labour throughout the year brings in a wage of between 75 to 200 afs per day, but during the harvest; instead of a daily wage in cash, people are paid in wheat or barley. Crop production and daily labour were the main sources of income, and have a major impact on the livelihood of the "poor" Chochman households.

The graph on the right demonstrates the percentage of households of all wealth groups engaged in crop production and agriculture labour. More 23% of poor households were engaged in crop production in 2004 than 2003. In 2004, more 32% of new middle and 25% wealthy households; were generating income from labour, in contrast, less households (11%) of poor were engaged in agricultural day labour.

Crop production and agricultural day labour as income

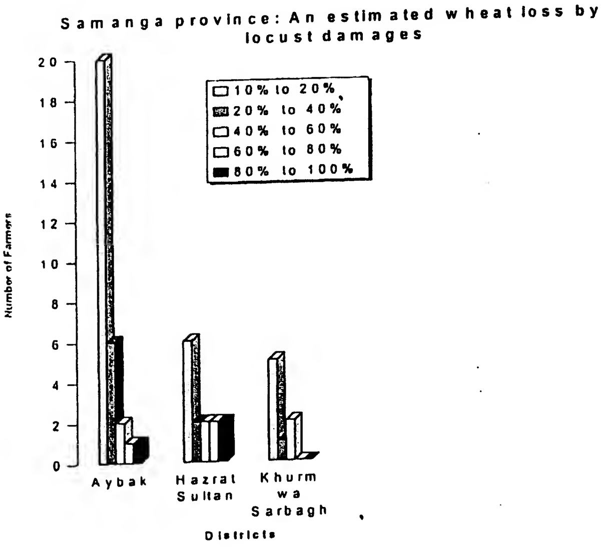


COLLECTION AND SALE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

In 2003, (13) households (One household was from "wealthy", five "middle" and seven "poor" income households) collected and sold natural resources whereas (6) household of (2) from the poor and (4) from the middle income collected and sold in 2004. All (6) households collected and sold bushes, asafo, and animal manure. Furthermore, the data shows that two 'poor" households collected and sold Cumi. Livelihood activities were negatively impacted by the recent drought. Lack of rain meant that bushes did not grow as well, fewer animals, led to a reduced amount of dung available for collection. The future availability of these resources did not appear to be compromised, since animal stocks would be replenished, and bushes are cut above the root system. This allows bushes to grow again during the raining season. Despite the drought, bush prices have remained stable, but fewer households collect this resource as market rates for day labour are more profitable for households.

Assessment shocks to Crop Losses

In Chochman 5% of households reported 20-50% of crop losses. None of the households reported more than 20-50% crop losses. However, it seems the crop losses were specific to one household. Samangan province experienced irregular rainfall and locust attacks but according the (GOAL locust impact assessment) survey data, locust invasions have had little effect on the crops this year (2004) in comparison to 2003 and 2002.



As shown on the graph to the left, 34% of the total farmers (90 farmers) claimed losses of 10% to 20%. Furthermore, 10% claimed losses of 20% to 40%. In comparison, 6.7% claimed losses of 40% to 60% and 3% were reported losses of 60% to 80% and 80% to 100% respectively by locusts.

Locust invasions occurred in most districts of the province from March onwards, continuously almost until harvest time. The output or wheat yield was reduced substantially, following the attacks and poor rainfall (particularly in Aybak and Hazrat Sultan).

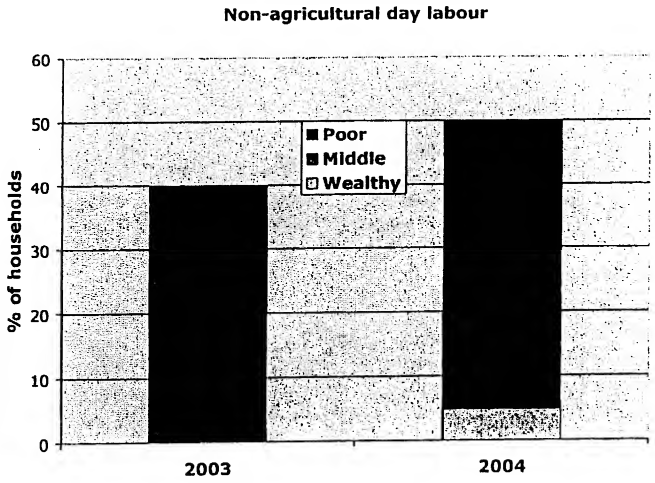
LIVESTOCK: Grazing land also sustained quite serious damage following the locust invasion. At the moment, there is hardly any pasture in the province and the cattle are beginning to lose weight. In consequence, distress sales together with low demands, may lead to low cattle prices.

Shocks to non- Agricultural

Non-Agricultural Labour (skilled and unskilled manual labour)

In Chochman, 50% of men and 60% of women households claimed manual labour as an income sources in 2004 against only 40% of men households in 2003. Of these households, five were from the poor, four from the middle and one was from the wealthy households. On the same line the 60% of the women households who claimed manual labour as an income source in 2004, 35% were from poor female households, 20% of middle, and 5% of wealth income households.

As the graph to the right demonstrates none of the wealthy household was engaged in non-agricultural day labour in 2003. In 2004, more (10%) of the poor and (5%) of wealthy households were engaged in non-agricultural day labour, in contrast less 5% of middle income households were engaged relative to 2003. This is due to seasonal changes and as we have seen in the above crop production and agricultural day labour graph. All wealth group agricultural labour has increased, thus there are more households that are busy with agricultural labour; rather than non-agricultural day labour during this particular time of year.



OTHER INCOME SOURCES

The only other main income source in Chochman were loans. Loans were a major source of income for 30% of the households. Most (25%) households with loans were" poor" and (5%) were from the wealthy households.

Gifts/Gleaning

Only one household from poor household reported gifts/gleaning as income in 2004, whereas none of households reported an income from gifts and gleaning in 2003.

Coping strategies

The coping strategies included here are by no means inclusive of all strategies invoked by households to survive tough times. Instead, it focuses on behaviours predictive of declining livelihood and food security in Afghanistan; that can be easily measured.

The list was divided into erosive and non-erosive coping strategies in order to understand impacts on households' future livelihood security. The division is not mutually exclusive as the loss of a bicycle, motorcycle or car may also impact future opportunities. Similarly, the order of the list does not reflect a continuum of behaviour. The coping strategies listed are meant to be general indicators of a worsening situation, however, households experiencing chronic and transitory poverty, who engage in these activities on a regular basis.

None Erosive coping strageries

In order to meet their expenses, 15% of households sold non-productive assets such as gillams, carpets in 2003, whereas, 5% of households sold non productive assets in 2004. Less than half (30%) of households have engaged in longer hours of work, in both 2003 and 2004. However, more 15% of households sent the sons to work as indentured labour in 2004. Food consumption patterns and sources of food are also key indicators of household vulnerability. 5% of the families interviewed had

	2003 (%)	2004 (%)
Household member migrated for labour	5	13
Sons sent to work as indentured labour	5	20
Sold Carpet / Gilims from the house	15	5
Household members worked more hours to make daily expenses	30	30
Households who borrowed food from relatives to make a meal	25	40
Households who had been consuming dried bread	10	0
Household took out loan	30	50
Household who took food on credit from shop	45	60

been eating dried bread in 2003 whereas zero household, reported eating dried bread in this round of data. This clearly highlights a situation of food insecurity. In addition to changes in food consumption, most of the families needed external support to food needs. Some (40%) of the families had to borrow food from their relatives in order to make a meal in the last six months, and the data shows a 15% increase in 2004.

Erosive and distress coping strategies

It is apparent that strategies adapted by households to deal with shocks varied with individuals, households and villages. In Chochman, 50% of households took loans as a coping strategy, whereas 30% used loans as coping strategy to meet daily expenses in 2003, and we see an increase of 20%. In the same way, up to 45% of the households took food on credit in 2003, whereas 60% took food on credit from local shops in 2004 with an increase of 20%. It is apparent that both "poor" and "middle" households are extremely vulnerable as they jeopardize future production capacity to cover immediate needs.

Income Diversity and Capacity to Cope – Risk to Livelihoods

Household capacity to absorb shocks and to adapt stresses induced by climate, price instability, unemployment and complex emergencies such as political crisis. However, households with various income sources are better able to cope than households who rely on one or two income sources. The income diversity score is simply a count of the number of income sources for each household. In Chochman, households had an average income diversity score of 3.2 against 3.1 in 2003. In many cases the wealthier household often scores higher income diversity measures, however, in this situation the middle income households have slightly higher diversity score relative to wealthy and poor households. Furthermore, the middle and poor households' diversity score have slightly increased in 2004, relative to 2004. The main sources of income in Chochman was crop production, agricultural day labour, livestock production, collection and sale of natural resources, and non-agricultural day labour.

	Average Income Diversity Score	
	2003	2004
Wealth	3.3	3.0
Middle	3.1	3.7
Poor	2.3	3.0
All households	3.1	3.2

CONCLUSION - LIVELIHOOD SECURITY SUPPORT

Sustainable livelihood requires citizen's participation and methods that will promote and enable the people to make decisions on issues that affect them and their immediate surroundings. Rebuilding village livelihood is a diverse and huge task which calls for interventions in every sector of the society. However, its primary use is therefore to choose between these various interventions.

Household livelihood is not secure and is declining. Personal assets (health and age of family members) are important factor of how poor households are with and less access to ecological and political assets cope with livelihood strategy. Household members worked more hours to make daily expenses, crop production, livestock production, collection and sell of natural resources, agricultural day labour, and non-agricultural day labour. Taking loans was the common coping strategies to secure livelihood. It is interesting to note that most households choose a combination of these strategies as a way to fulfill their needs.

Finding the highest priority for intervention is not easy. Boundaries are shifting in Chochman, as significant non-farm activities appear in poor households. However, there were a number of observations that gives relevant importance to agriculture programmes. These programs will aid in reducing poverty in Chochman households. The centre issue has been that profits and skills gained in agriculture can help Chochman household's move towards better livelihood security. Among poor households off-farm income was the main target to fund entry -into cash cropping, and to provide households with more income diversity.

The economic role of women within Chochman and the surrounding area remains underdeveloped. Sericulture and apiculture are sectors of the village economy in which women have traditionally played important roles, yet both sectors have been badly neglected. These industries require urgent rebuilding and rehabilitation, since both sericulture and apiculture represent economic opportunity for the landless, and the rural poor potential alleviation of poverty

National Surveillance System (NSS)

Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan

Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation & Development,
Ministry of Agriculture & Animal Husbandry &
Ministry of Health

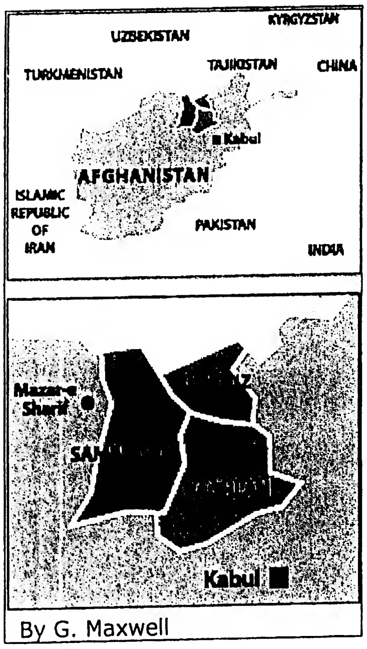
Samangan
Surveillance Unit

Aybak District

**Dara-e-Zandan
Sentinel site**

Summer 2004

SUMMARY FINDINGS FOR Dara-e-Zandan SENTINEL SITE IN AYBAK DISTRICT (These findings are based on field survey of 20 households and Dara-e-Zandan village leaders interview. These findings should not be assumed to representative of other parts of Afghanistan)



By G. Maxwell

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Food Security

- Crop production has fallen considerably 2004 compared to the 2003 crop season. The 2003, harvest reported to be a normal harvest year with farmers averaging from 1 to 1.9 tons per hectare. This year with poor rainfall at the beginning and at the end of the cycle and locust damage, average wheat yield were between 500 to 900 kg/hectare. On the same line, the average land accessed by all households has increased from 228 jiribs of land to 258 jiribs of land in 2004.
- In 2004, only 41% of households (all from the poor income households) felt they were not able to buy/cultivate enough food in the past six months. Furthermore, 10% of households worried how they would purchase/cultivate food. However, 15% and 5% of the households felt their situation was worse compared to one year or six months ago respectively. On average all households combined had a dietary diversity score of 4.7 against 3.2 in November 2003 or an increase of 1.5% in 2004.

Risks to Lives

- The crude mortality rate is not above both the emergency threshold rate of deaths people per day compare to 2003 and the normal developing country level of deaths people per day. Furthermore, for children under five years of age, the mortality rate does compare favorably with the stable developing country rate, and is higher than the emergency threshold rate of deaths people per day. The current rate increase of water, bloody diarrhea and the Acute Respiratory Infections of children under five years of age is serious concern for the village. This survey demonstrates that the children of Dara-e-Zandan were in conditions of poor health that are both preventable and treatable.

Livelihood Security

- **In 2003 women's income activities were only carpets, and gifts. In contrast, in 2004, trade of natural resource collection, agricultural day labour, non-agricultural labour and raising livestock were popular income sources for "poor" and "middle" income women households.**

What is the NSS?

The National Surveillance System monitors trends in key indicators in order to predict early signs of change and deterioration in livelihoods, food security and nutrition. In conjunction with other complementary data collection systems, the NSS provides relevant data for prioritizing limited resources and designing programs.

Methodology

The NSS is based on a sentinel site system, in which provincial level ministries follow a rotating cohort of households' overtime. Sites are selected so that they mirror the majority of the communities with respect to agro-ecological features, economic activities, available services and people in a given area (livelihood / agro-ecological zone). Because of the diversity of livelihoods in Afghanistan, even in rural areas, information from the sentinel may not be representative of every village in the zone. However, it is likely, that the data from one sentinel site can signal concern for other villages in the same zone (See Annex I for detailed information on methodology).

FOOD SECURITY – DARA-E-ZENDAN

CROP PRODUCTION

The Samangan province has great potential for growing most of temperate fruit crops and various tropical spices, as well as, a wide variety of cereal crops including wheat, rice and barley. Nevertheless, natural hazards (drought, locust invasions) combined with old-fashion farming practices limit the production. Rural and semi-rural areas in Afghanistan remain highly dependant on subsistence agriculture for households' consumption. As a result, the reduction of the harvest will affect seasonal agricultural labour patterns in rural areas, reducing labour and income opportunities. This places greater economic strains on households that would eventually force them to purchase wheat at higher prices. The annual wheat production required for Aybak district population of 87670 people is estimated to be 19,300 metric tones per year. This does not include amount of seeds that households will keep for planting for the next growing season.

Area planted

Dara-e-Zandan	All households		Wealthy		Middle		Poor	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
% owning rainfed land	25	30	100	67	25	33	14	18
% owing irrigated land	20	40	100	100	0	100	14	18
average jiribs accessed land	228	258	109	197	78	21	41	40

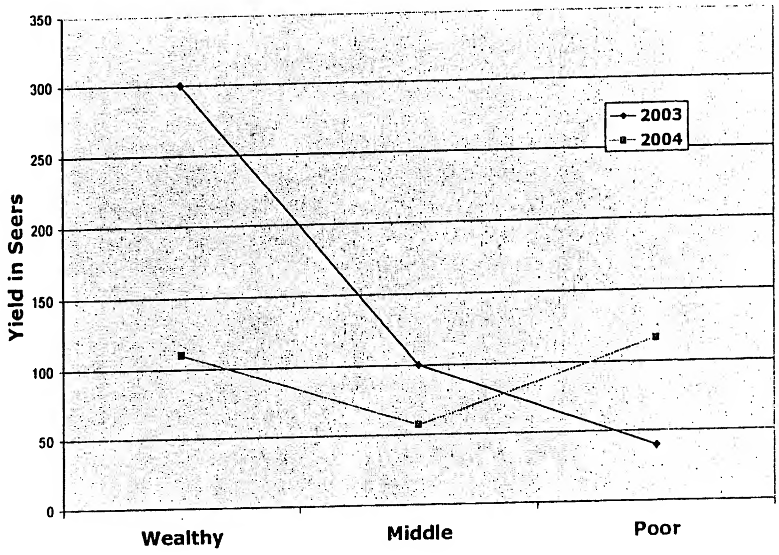
Land access and ownership is the key prerequisite for agricultural production.
As shown in the table on the right, the data gathered shows that cultivated land varied from season to season and the year to year. On the same line, the average land accessed by all households has increased from 228 jiribs of land to 258 jiribs of land in 2004. However, the percentage of households owning rainfed land has increased by 5%, whiles the percentage of owning irrigated land has also increased by 20%. The "wealthy" household average access jiribs had increased from 109 jiribs to 197 in 2004. In contrast, the middle household average of access land has decreased from 78 to 21 jiribs, where the poor households have also decreased from 41 to 40 jiribs in 2004. The data clearly indicates that land ownership is a key characteristic of wealth differentiation in the community. Though draft oxen are extremely important to household crop production, in Dara-e-Zandan no households own oxen.

Wheat Production (Yield)

Agricultural production is the most important source of income with 80% of households engaging crop production. Either some households were sharecroppers or they simply did not own any land, the amount of yield kept by households can differ from the actual harvest.

The graph on the right, presents the average amount of yield retained by the household in 2003 and 2004. It is disaggregated by wealth to understand relative differences in food availability by socio-economic groups. The "wealthy" average wheat yield is estimated at 110 Seers compared to 300 Seers in 2003 and a drop of 63%. Middle household wheat yield totaled 57 Seers against 100 Seers in 2003 and also a drop of 43%. However, Poor household wheat yield is estimated 116 Seers compared to 40 Seers in 2003 or an increase of 66%. The reason could well be that the total sowing seeds is estimated at 99.5 jiribs in comparison to 153 jiribs in 2003 or a drop of 35% jiribs. However, this graph does not necessarily represent the food security.

Average household wheat yield by wealth groups



ASSESSMENT OF CROP LOSSES

Crop production has fallen considerably this year compared to that of 2003's crop season. The 2003 harvest was reported to be a normal harvest year with farmers averaging from 1 to 1.9 tons per hectare. This year with poor rainfall at the beginning and end of the cycle, average wheat yield was between 500 to 900 kg/hectare. During this crop season the situation was exacerbated by locusts, smut diseases and Sunn pest, which destroyed wheat in several districts of the Samangan province. Overall, losses due to locust damage in rainfed areas have been estimated to be 20% in Samangan provinces. In contrast, the overall losses by locust and drought damage in irrigated land, have been estimated to be 23% in Samangan (GOAL-Locust impact assessment report 2004).

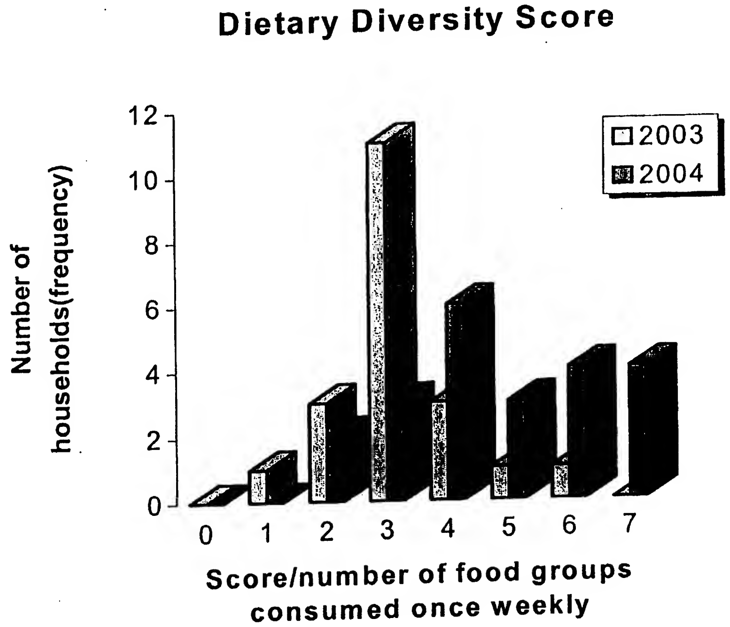
FOOD SECURITY PERCEPTION

In 2003, 60% of households felt they were not able to buy/cultivate enough food four months prior to the survey (45% of these were "poor", 10% from the "middle" and 5% "wealthy" households). In contrast in 2004, only 41% of those from poor households felt they were not able to buy/cultivate enough food in the past six months. Furthermore, 10% of households worried how they would purchase/cultivate food. However, 15% and 5% of the households felt their situation was worse compared to one year or six months ago respectively. Nonetheless, Enumerators observed that only 33% of the "poor" households did not appear to have enough food to survive for the next six months. None of the interviewed households thought the food security would get worse over the next six months, though many expressed uncertainty about how they could predict changes in food security in their home.

PERCEPTION OF FOOD SECURITY INDICATORS	**2003**	**2004**	**Change**
Consider food situation to be **worse** in comparison to 4/6 months ago	0	5	5
Consider food situation to be **worse** than one year ago	0	15	15
Considered food situation not to be sufficient at time of survey	60	41	19
Worried where their food was coming from at the time of survey	0	10	10
Expected the food situation to be **worse** in the next 4/6 months	0	0	0
Enumerators thought households did not have enough food for the next 4/6 months	65	33	32

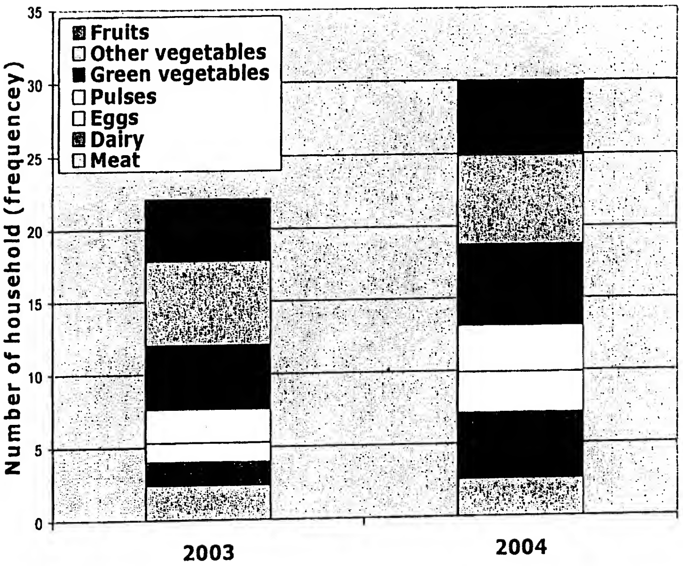
DIETARY DIVERSITY - DIET QUALITY

Household dietary diversity scores are summarized in the graph on the right. *The diversity score is calculated by attributing a score of "1" to each food group that was eaten at least once a week by a household. Households with a higher diversity score have a more diverse diet.* Surveys repeated throughout the country indicate that most households consume cereals or grains on a daily basis and thus, cereals were not included in the diet diversity score. On average all households combined had a dietary diversity score of 4.7 against 3.2 in November 2003 with an increase of 1.5% in 2004.



The graph on the right reflects the average frequency of consumption for food. The data shows that all households are eating protein rich foods (meat, milk, eggs and pulse) at least once a week to once a month to complement cereals (wheat and barley). However, the data indicates a slight increase on all food group consumption in 2004. This could well be a seasonal change.

Average frequencey of food group consumption by wealth groups in 2003 and 2004



The average frequency dairy product consumption by households has increased from 1.6 to 4.5 in 2004. With the same trend both meat and eggs have increased from 2.4 to 2.6 and from 1.3 to 2.8 respectively. Furthermore, household green vegetables, pulses, fruits and other vegetable average frequency consumptions shows a slight increase in 2004. However, this data does not allow inferences regarding protein sufficiency.

As the data regarding quantity and consumption practices have not been collected, no inferences can be made regarding the adequacy of vitamin and mineral intake. Nonetheless, this data suggests that the areas that need additional research include:

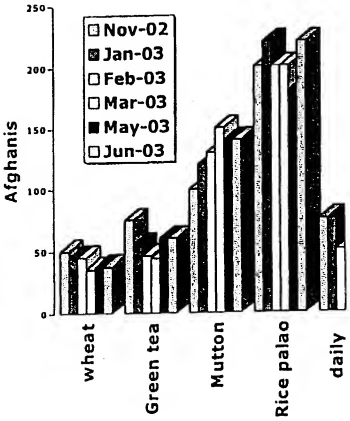
1. Vitamin A sufficiency (animal sources and beta-carotene from plant sources);
2. Calcium sufficiency (milk and water, most water is hard, sources), and;
3. Vitamin C sufficiency (fresh plant sources).

These concerns are based on the frequency of consumption reported by households and the limited availability of these foods compared to other items.

MARKET ACCESS

Aybak city is the closest food market to Dara-e-Zandan, accessible by foot or vehicle (two hours by foot or donkey).The road built by GOAL is in relatively good condition. According to this survey, some travel by vehicle (150 Af's per trip) but the cost may vary according to the person's location in the village. Most Dara-e-Zandan residents access Aybak market to trade wheat, livestock, purchase food, and non-food items. Market transactions are in cash based and most households send one person to the market on market days (Mondays and Thursdays, weekly). The market is open year-round and is one of the most important trading locations for local districts, including Samangan and the surrounding provinces.

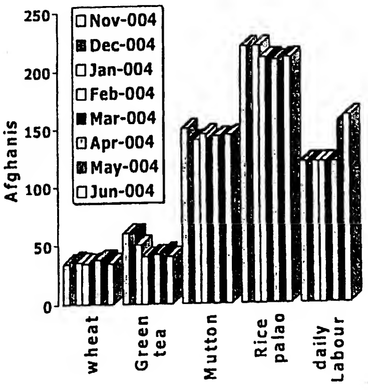
2003 Market prices



MARKET PRICES

No significant price changes have occurred between the two studies. Dara-e-Zendan households rely on Aybak market for food and non-food items, in which 50% of households purchase wheat. Wheat prices have been stable over the past year and impact daily labour rates, since many workers are paid wheat for work. When prices decrease, whilst labour rates increase, it, then becomes more

2004 Market prices



profitable to work for wheat compared to growing your own crop.
As shown on the graph to the left, wheat and green tea prices have been stable this year. However, daily labour rates increased from March 2003 reaching a peak of 200 Af's per day in June. Rates then began decreasing in November. The same trends held for both rice and mutton. Rice reached a peak of 220 Af's per Kg from January, June and November, 2003 and January, 2004. Mutton prices reached a maximum price of 150 Af's in January, March, and November 2003.

Mutton and rice increases, directly impact village food security's since these are staple food items. Households also purchase vegetable items (potatoes, spring onions, okra and carrots) from Aybak market: prices have remained steady. There are seasonal shortages of some vegetables, though this does not seem to impact vegetable prices in nor is demand or increases during the off-season. Households simply purchase what is available at that time in the market.

LIVESTOCK

The availability of adequate supply of water for people, livestock consumption, and for crops, is a major recurring problem for most households. Livestock, particularly cattle, traditionally holds a major economic and social place in the region as it provides 25% of the households primary income sources. However, animal numbers fluctuate widely from one year to another as most people tend to invest their savings in livestock in good years, while the sale of animals, acts as a cushion during the years of poor harvest. A previous study in March 2002, showed that livestock populations in Afghanistan have declined by 60%, whilst in Samangan has been estimated to be on 80% average loss of all animal stock. With calving and lambing rates range between 30 to 80%, the number of animals is slowly climbing, but is still not close to the pre-drought figures.

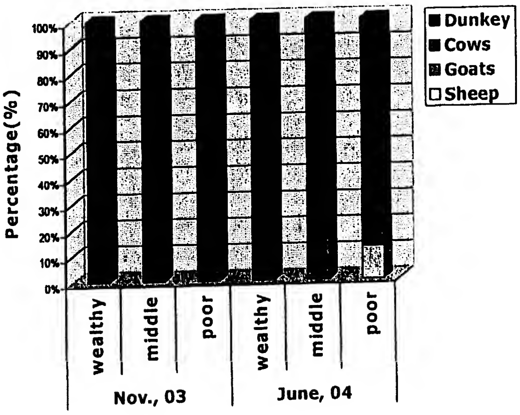
As shown in the table on the right, in many parts of Samangan, the livestock has been hit by the destruction of grazing land caused by drought and locust damage. In Dara-e-Zandan both the percent of household owning livestock (sheep, goats and cows) and the average number of livestock (sheep, goats and donkeys) per household has increased in 2004 compared to that of 2003.

	% households owning livestock		Average number of livestock	
	Nov 2003	June 2004	Nov 2003	June 2004
Sheep	0	5	0	22
Goats	5	10	8	12
Cows	10	30	1	1.3
Donkeys	55	50	1	1.3

Livestock ownership is a source of income for 85% households in the area. Of these households, most 45% were from "wealthy" and 20% from "poor" households and 20% were from "middle" income households.

As indicated the graph on the right the percentage of households owning animals has increased in 2004 in comparison to 2003. Some (9%) of poor households own sheep in 2004, in contrast both wealthy and middle households did not own sheep either in 2003 or 2004. In 2004, 17% of new middle and 9% of poor households have own goats. Further more, 67% of wealthy, middle 33% and 18% of poor households, have reported owning cows. This is an indication that here are more households that are pursuing livestock as a new source of income in 2004 compared to in 2003.
Reflecting on the poor quality of pastures which were seriously affected by both locust and poor rainfall in many parts of the area, animals are in poor condition. As early in January 2004, some households started selling six live goats in order to avoid losses. Livestock does need to be replenished by using longer-term breeding programmes, credit initiatives, loans or other schemes, that will allow the farmer to access funds in order to purchase new animals.

Percentage of households with livestock by wealth group in 2003 and 2004



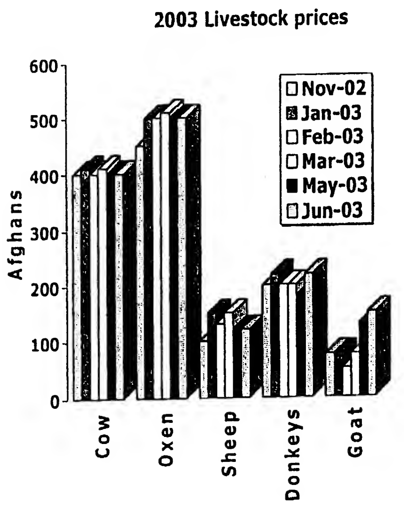
Livestock disease

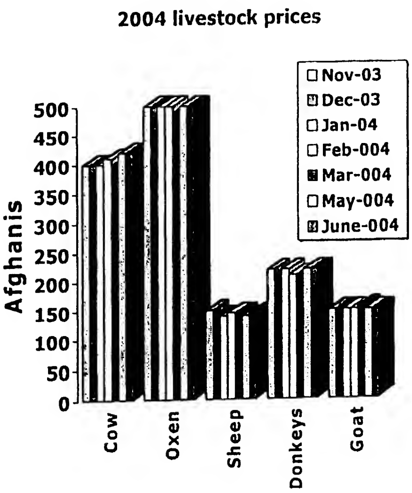
In 2003, 8 heads of cattle had ownership in Dara-e-Zandan, and 75% were said to be infected with foot and mouth disease. Looking at the 2004 results there was a total number of cattle of 8 heads that had no infect cattle reported. However, in both results, no cattle was observed with the disease and no households offered evidence that any animals had died by the disease. Foot and mouth cannot be ruled out in Aybak district, since this has been a problem in the past, but more evidence is required to support the claim that this disease is still a problem.

There were 20 heads of sheep and goats in Dari-e-Zandan in 2003, with 5% suffering from sheep and goat pox (SGP). In comparison, 2004 results show that the number of the sheep and goats have increased from 20 heads to 24 heads with no sheep Pox disease infection.
No vaccination clinics have occurred in the last six months, though a veterinary clinic and hospital does exist in Aybak city. Medicines are not available provincially to treat the condition, and vaccinations are the most effective way to prevent animal losses.

Livestock Prices

Again, no livestock price changes were notice. Dara-e-Zandan and surrounding villages rely on the Aybak city market livestock sales and purchases.





As seen on the left and right, both qaraqal sheep and cow prices remained stable from November 2002 until January 2004. However, oxen prices increased between February and January 2004. Goat prices were stable at approximately $150, with seasonal variation. Donkeys are considered the second most important animal to own, and prices tended to remain stable around $220, though some seasonal variation existed.

Grazing land and Access to Water

Dara-e-Zandan and surrounding environment is relatively hostile and fragile, and the market has a scarcity of water resources. The climatic constraints are severe, and continued reduction in rainfall from one year to the next. According to village leaders, access to grazing land has decreased in the last six months prior to the survey. Grassland productivity has been similar to previous years, whilst access to water has decreased this year. However, water shortages between 1999 and 2002 did play a role in subsequent animal losses. Unfortunately, local authorities were not able to use changes in grassland and water access to predict future threats to livestock. Increased awareness of threats to grazing land access might have allowed communities to protect themselves better against drought related animal losses. In addition, common grazing land is sometimes compromised by illegal cultivation of rainfed wheat. This practice can also compromise community animal stocks.

RISKS TO LIVES – DARA-e-ZANDAN

The risk to lives section of this report highlights areas in the country where individuals are more at risk of dying and at the same time, understand the reasons behind this increased risk. It particularly focuses on better understanding of the links between nutritional risks, food insecurity, and mortality.

MORTALITY INDICATORS:

The current crude mortality rate (CMR) of 0.5 in Dara-e-zandan is not above the emergency threshold rate of 1.0 deaths/10,000 people per day and the normal developing country level of 0.5 deaths/10,000 people per day. Furthermore, children under five years of age has a mortality rate of 0.5 which does compare favourably with the stable developing rate of 1.0 deaths/10,000 people per day and the emergency threshold rate of 2.0 deaths/10,000 people per day.

Because of the high rate of maternal and child mortality in Afghanistan, this study also looked at the number of children who had a skilled birth attendant present at delivery which served as a proxy for risk to lives of both the mothers giving birth and the new infants. Of the number of children born in the last six months, the percentage of births attended by a skilled birth, attendant is 40%. This seems to be an acceptable percentage in this village. This figure, however, is not likely to include stillbirths or children who died during the last four months as a result of the difficulty of obtaining such information.

RISKS TO LIVES INDICATORS	**Nov. 2003 (%)**	**June 2004 (%)**	**Change (%)**
Mortality Indicators			
Crude mortality in last 4/6 months (Deaths / 10, 000 / day)	0.5	0.5	0.0
Under 5 mortality in last 4/6 months (Deaths / 10, 000 / day)	0.5	0.5	0.0
Births in last 4 months attended by a Skilled Birth Attendant (n=8)	40	40	0.0
Morbidity Indicators			
Children < 5 years with watery diarrhoea (n=25)	33.3	21.7	11.6
Children < 5 years with bloody diarrhoea (n=25)	5.6	8.7	2.9
Children < 5 with ARI (n=25)	50.0	35	15
Children between 6 and 59 months with measles vaccination (n=21)	94.4	91	3.4
Child Anthropometric Status (WFH % of median and MUAC)			
Children with global acute malnutrition (Oedema/Severe/Moderate) (n=42) (n=26)	0.0	4.8[1]	4.8
Children > 6 months and <59 months with Oedema (n=21)	0.0	0.0	0.0
Children > 6 and <59 months with severe acute malnutrition (n=21)	0.0	0.0	0.0
Children > 6 and <59 months with moderate acute malnutrition (n=21)	0.0	4.8	4.8
Children > 1 year and <59 months with a MUAC under 13.5 cm (n=21)	12.5	21.1	8.6
Children > 1 year and <59 months with a MUAC under 12 cm (n=21)	6.3	10.5	4.2
Adult Women Anthropometric Status			
Reproductive age women (15-49 years) with a MUAC < 23.0 cm (n=23)	28.6	14.8	13.8
Reproductive age women (15-49 years) with a MUAC < 21.0 cm (n=23)	4.8	7.4	2.6
Micronutrient Deficiencies			
Households with iodised salt (only includes households with salt) (n=20)	0	36.4	36.4
Households with salt	100	100	0

MORBIDITY INDICATORS:

The morbidity indicators included in the surveillance system that are associated with a risk of mortality, and are the primary causes of death for children under five in Afghanistan. The incidence of watery diarrhoea among children under five years is that of 22% against 33.3% in November 2003 which is a *cause of concern*. The presence of bloody diarrhoea in 8.6 % against 5.6% in November 2003 of the children in the village indicates a more serious concern. Many of the cases of diarrhoeal disease might be attributed to hygiene practices and a shortage of water. The percent of children under five suffering from Acute Respiratory Infections is 35% against 50 in November 2003 is still cause of concern in the village. Measles vaccination coverage in Afghanistan is 95%, and MOH figures for the Aybak district report coverage to be 85%. Additionally, the measles vaccination coverage of 91% against 94% in November 2003 is consistent with district figures.

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[1] (CI: 0.43 to 0.61): The confidence interval is calculated for a random sample with a small (finite) population.

CHILDREN NUTRITIONAL STATUS:

Using weight for height percentage of the median, the data shows no Global Acute malnutrition (GAM) for children between 6 to 59 months. None of the children were found to be severely malnourished (less than 70% weight-for –height percent of the median), yet, 4.8% of the children were reported moderately malnourished or suffering from oedema.

Children classified as moderately malnourished by MUAC measurements (less than 12 cm) are potentially at risk of mortality. About 10.5% of the children in the survey were reported to be malnourished (less than 12 cm) and 21% were reported to be at risk(less than 13.5 cm) of being malnourished. This figure along with the weight-for- height percent of median suggests that acute malnutrition for children in this age group was not a cause of concern for the village.

ADULT WOMEN NUTRITIONAL STATUS:

Low MUACs in reproductive-age women has been associated with high child and maternal mortality's making it an important indicator for increased risks to adult women mortality. In Dara-e-zandan 15% of women have a MUAC below 23.0 cm and 7.4% of women have a MUAC below 21.0 cm.

MICRONUTRIENT DEFICIENCIES:

The presence of iodised salt in the house is a proxy for the use of it and also therefore of iodine deficiency. 36% households had iodised salt, as all salt was locally mined block salt, during the survey. However, the iodised salt is available in the local market and there is a factory that produces iodised salt in Ghol mahalah, Shaberghan City, Jowzjan province.

HEALTH FACILITIES:

The table below lists the health services or facilities that are available to the people in Dara-e-Zendan area. However, there are no health facilities in Dara-e-Zendan itself and all the residents of the neighbouring villages travel to Aybak City (Provincial Capital City) in order to use Aybak City's health services. Aybak City has two main hospitals, four comprehensive health centres, and number of private doctors. People travel there with public transportation, in which it costs 500 afs to get to Aybak city from Dara-e-Zendan. In an urgent situation, people get a taxi, which costs (round trip including a waiting period) 1500 Afs.

In Dara-e-Zendan itself, there are number of traditional birth attendants (TBA) to help the village women with birth deliveries. The birth attendant usually comes to the woman's house for the services. The common custom of TBA in this village and the surrounding areas's is that there are no fixed charges for the TBA services. Thus, every household pays what they are able to afford and in accordance to their class in the community. The TBA fee ranges from 0 to 500 afs and can be in cash or kind. Many households in this village pay their TBA services with food and non-food items.

All the government health services in Aybak City are free of charge, and as a result, they are used largely by low and middle class income families. The wealthy class of Dara-e-Zendan and the surrounding area, go to private doctors, which charge 40 Afs for a visit. Many people believe that the services of a private doctor are better than those of the government and if one is able to afford 40 Afs he/she should go to a private doctor. Medicine needs to be paid for in both cases. There are also skilled birth attendants in Aybak City hospitals and, in addition there is a private service that people may use in the case of severe emergencies or complications. This type of private service is very expensive. Travelling to Aybak is possible in all seasons, including winter, as the village is very close to the city.

Health Facilities Table

	Location of facility	Time taken to reach facility	Cost of getting to the facility (Afs)	Access to facility	Facility Accessible in winter and Spring
Health posts	Aybak centre	Less than hour	500	Everybody	Yes
Basic Health Centre	Aybak centre	Less than hour	500	Everybody	Yes
Comprehensive Health Centre	Aybak centre	Less than hour	500	Everybody	Yes
Hospital	Aybak centre	Less than hour	500	Everybody	Yes
Traditional healers or Birth Attendants	Dara-zendan	Less than hour	0	Women	Yes
Skilled birth attendant	Aybak centre	Less than hour	500	Women	Yes
Private doctor	Aybak centre	Less than hour	500	Everybody	Yes

The use of health facilities has stayed steady in the last four months.

WATER SOURCES:

In Dara-e- zenadan, sources of drinking water are river and pools (hole where rainwater is collected and stored for use). The residence of Dara-e-zandan obtains water for household use from a river or pool. The primary source of drinking and bathing water is the river, which runs through a steep narrow valley 400 meters below the village. Household men will spend between 30 minutes to one hour fetching water from the river - with donkeys if they own them. They travel down to the river twice a week with a donkey, bearing two 15 litre tanks to hold the water. Poor households and those households without male members, rely on women and sons to get water from the river on a daily basis or from the nearby canals. The local pools are about five minutes to walk from the households' and are managed by the elders. These elders, rotate on a daily basis, and oversee the pool canal pathways every eight to ten days receiving water from the river through canals every eight to ten days. Other, villages in the surrounding area depend on similar sources of water for household use, but is even further from the main river source. Main priority of the village is to get more access to clean drinking water through construction of more hand pumps or deep wells with immersed pumps as the Dara-e-Zendan village has access to electricity.

Drinking Water Source Table

(Source listed in order of use)	Time taken for water collection	Quality change since last year	Quantity change since last year
River	Less than hour	Same	Same
Pool	5 to 10 minutes	Same	Same

SANITATION FACILITIES:

There are three common types of toilets in the Dara-e-Zendan area: open area, vault latrine and deep latrine. The majority of households have a deep latrine toilet in their houses. The vault latrine is usually located in public places like schools and mosques. They are always separated for men and women. The very low income households of Dara-e-Zendan who can afford to build a latrine, have an open area toilet. Some of these households use human manure to improve their crop production fields.

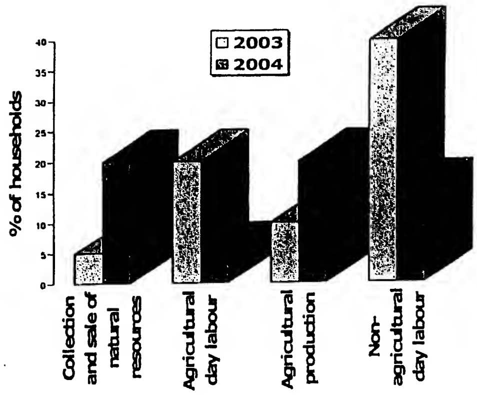
LIVELIHOOD SECURITY – DARA-E-ZANDAN

Livelihood Strategies:

The primary income source of most households in Dara-e-zandan during the survey period were agricultural crop production, collection and sale of natural resources, none-agricultural day labour, formal wage labour and agricultural day labour

As shown in the graph on the right, there are changes in the primary income source in relation with seasonality. The percentage of households that were engaged in crop production and the collection and sale of natural resources have increased from 10% to 20% and from 5% to 20% in 2004 respectively. In contrast agriculture day labour and non-agricultural day labour the percentage of households have reduced from 20% to 5% and from 40% to 15% in 2004 respectively.

Primary source of income for households



The table below captures the percentage of households engaged in different activities. This provides an indication of the relative importance of different livelihood strategies to the community. With regard to seasonality changes, with exception of those engaged in informal wage labour, Spinning/carpet labour and the rental income the rest of activities the percentage of households who were engaged in 2003 have been increased in 2004.

	Percent of households with Income Source		Percentage of households with Women's Income Source	
N=20 Households	**2003**	**2004**	**2003**	**2004**
Spinning/ carpets labour	0	0	10	5
Agricultural day labour	65	50	-	91
Agricultural livestock	10	15	-	32
Take a loan	30	50	-	18
Agricultural crops	25	50	-	55
Non-agriculture day labour	60	30	-	55
Collection–natural resources	40	50	-	9
Informal wage labour	5	5	-	5
Rental income	5	5	-	5
Gifts/Gleaning	5	15	5	5

Data regarding women's income activities can clarify the role of women in current livelihoods strategies and identify potential for future involvement. In 2003 women's income activities were only carpets, gifts, However, in 2004 the data show that women were also engaged agricultural labour, crop production, livestock, collection and sale of natural resources and non-agricultural day labour.

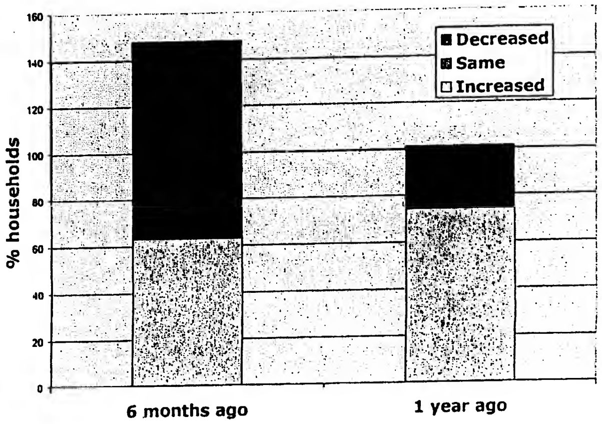
Female headed households were very poor. The main problem is illiteracy, unemployment, poor infrastructure, lack of resources. A number of widows will receive wool material from GOAL for making gillams and carpets

LIVELIHOOD SHOCKS:

GENERAL LIVELIHOOD SHOCKS or CONSTRAINTS:

The graph on the right shows that 10% of the households' income has decreased for the last six months to compare year ago. In the previous year, 16% of households' incomes stayed the same, in contrast 32% of households income stay the same for the past six months. Income increases followed the same trend: Only 63% households reported an increase in the last six months compared to 74% in the previous year.

Change in total household income

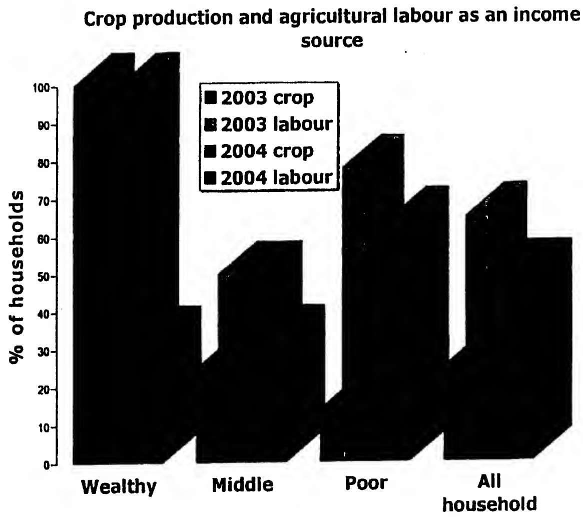


Furthermore, 53% of households reported income decrease in the last six month in comparison with 11% of last year. This suggests livelihoods are not secure yet. Households with steady incomes did not share similar livelihoods, thus it does not appear that a specific shock is responsible. Instead, this might be normal variation.

Crop production and agricultural daily labour:

Agricultural labour throughout the year brings in a wage of between 75 to 200 afs per day, but during the harvest, instead of a daily wage in cash, people are paid in wheat or barley. Crop production and daily labour were the main sources of income and have a major impact on the livelihood of the "poor" Dara-e-Zandan households.

The graph on the right demonstrate the percentage of households of all wealth groups engaged crop production and agriculture labour. More (22%) of poor households and (25%) middle household were engaged in crop production in 2004 than 2003. In 2004, more (33%) of new wealthy households were generating income form labour, in contrast less (17%) of middle and (14%) of poor households were engaged agricultural day labour.



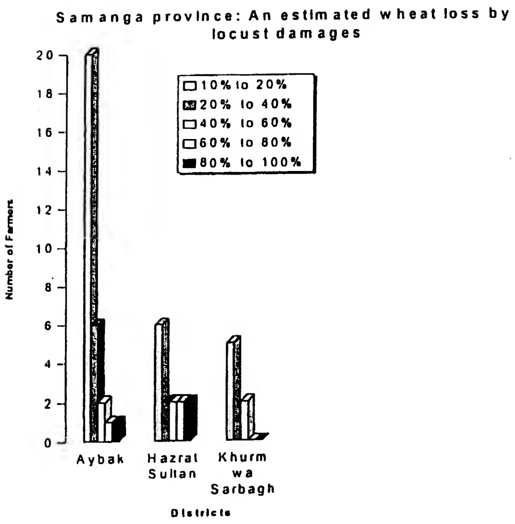
COLLECTION AND SALE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

In 2003, (9) households collected and sold natural resources whereas (11) household collected and sell in 2004. Of these, four were "poor", four were "middle" and three "wealthy". All (11) households collected and sold bushes, asafo and animal manure. Furthermore, the data shows that two 'poor" households collected and sold Cumi. Livelihood activities were negatively impacted by recent drought. Lack of rain meant that bushes did not grow as well, and fewer animals led to a reduced amount of dung available for collection. The future availability of these resources did not appear to be compromised since animal stocks would be replenished, and bushes are cut above the root system so that they would grow again after the rains. Despite the drought, bush prices have remained stable, but fewer households collect this resource as market rates for day labour are more profitable for households.

Assessment shocks to Crop Losses

In Dara-e-Zandan 5% of households reported 20-50% of crop losses. None of the households reported more than 20-50% crop losses. However, it seems the crop losses were specific to the one household, but the village leaders reported high level of crop production in the six months prior to the survey.

Samangan province experienced irregular rainfall and locust attacks but according the (GOAL locust impact assessment) survey data locust invasions have had little effect on the crops this year (2004) in comparison with 2003 and 2002.



As shown on the graph to the left, 34.4% of the total farmers (90 farmers) claimed losses of 10% to 20%, whereas 10% claimed losses of 20% to 40%, 6.7% claimed losses of 40% to 60% and 3% reported losses of 60% to 80% and 80% to 100% respectively by locusts.

Locust invasions occurred in most districts of the province from March onwards, continuously almost until harvest time. The output or wheat yield was reduced substantially following the attacks and poor rainfall, particularly in Aybak and Hazrat Sultan.

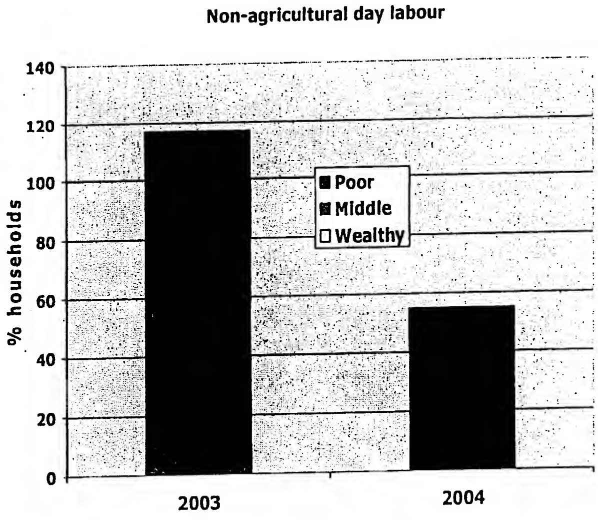
LIVESTOCK: Grazing land also sustained quite serious damage following the locust invasion. At the moment, there is hardly any pasture in the province and the cattle are beginning to lose weight. In consequence, distress sales together with low demands may lead to low cattle prices.

Shocks to non- Agricultural

Non-Agricultural Labour (skilled and unskilled manual labour)

In Dara-e-Zendan, only 30% of man and 61% of women households claimed manual labour as an income sources in 2004 against only 60% of man households in 2003. All man households (30%) claimed an income from non-agricultural labour were from poor. With the same line 90% of poor female households and 33% of middle income households claimed manual labour as an income source in 2004.

As the graph to the right demonstrates no wealthy household was engage in non-agricultural day labour in 2003 or 2004. For the middle income households 75% were engaged in 2003, but none of middle income household was reported an income from none-agricultural day labour 2004. Furthermore, the data show that the percent of poor households that was engaged in none-agricultural day labour have increased from 42% to 55% in 2004. This is due to seasonal changes and as we have seen in the above crop production and agricultural day labour graph that all wealth group agricultural labour have increased and so that it is more households that were busy with agricultural labour rather than non-agricultural day labour in this time of year.



OTHER INCOME SOURCES

In Dari-e-Zandan, 20 % household (5% of wealthy and 15% of poor households) reported an income from repayments of loans and 5% of wealthy households also reported rental income. However, again 2004 no household reported from Remittance and Mortgage as an income sources.

Loans
Ten households of (2) from middle, (6) from the poor and (2) from the wealthy households took loan in 2004, in comparison six households of (4) from the poor and two from the middle

households took loan as sources of income and in 2003. This shows that more households are taking loan in order to cover their daily expenses.

Gifts/Gleaning

Two households from "poor" and one middle household reported gifts/gleaning as income in 2004, whereas only one poor household reported an income from gifts and gleaning in 2003.

Coping strategies

The coping strategies included here are by no means inclusive of all strategies invoked by households to survive tough times; instead, it focuses on behaviours predictive of declining livelihood and food security in Afghanistan that can be easily measured.

The list was divided into erosive and non-erosive coping strategies in order to understand impacts on households' future livelihood security. The division is not mutually exclusive as the loss of a bicycle, motorcycle or car may also impact future opportunities. Similarly, the order of the list does not reflect a continuum of behaviour. The coping strategies listed are meant to be general indicators of a worsening situation, however, households experiencing chronic and transitory poverty who engage in these activities on a regular basis.

None Erosive coping strageries

	2003	2004
Household member migrated for labour	0	5
Sold Carpet / Gilims from the house	0	5
Household members worked more hours to make daily expenses	30	35
Households who borrowed food from relatives to make a meal	30	40
Households who had been consuming dried bread	5	10
Household took out loan	30	50
Household who took food on credit from shop	60	40

In order to meet their expenses, 5% households sold non-productive assets such as gillams, carpets in 2004. Less than half (35%) of households have engaged in longer hours of work. Food consumption patterns and sources of food are also key indicators of household vulnerability. 10% of the families interviewed had been eating dried bread whereas only 5% of households were reported in 2003. This clearly highlights a situation of food insecurity. In addition to changes in food consumption, most of the families needed external support to food needs. 40% of the families had to borrow food from their relatives in order to make a meal in the last six months and the data shows 10% increase in 2004.

Erosive and distress coping strategies

It is apparent that strategies adapted by households to deal with shocks varied with individuals, households and villages. In Dara-e-Zandan, 50% of households took loans as a coping strategy, whereas 30% took loan as coping strategy to meet daily expenses in 2003, or an increase of 20%. In the same way, up to 60% of the households took food on credit in 2003, whereas 40% took food on credit from local shops in 2004 or a drop of 20%. It is apparent that both "poor" and "middle" households are extremely vulnerable as they jeopardize future production capacity to cover immediate needs.

Income Diversity and Capacity to Cope – Risk to Livelihoods

	Average Income Diversity Score	
	2003	2004
Wealth	2.5	4.0
Middle	2.8	2.8
Poor	2.7	3.9
All households	2.7	3.6

Household capacity to absorb shocks and to adapt stresses induced by climate, price instability, unemployment and complex emergencies such as political crisis. However, households with various income sources are better able to cope than households who rely on one or two income sources. The income diversity score is simply a count of the number of income sources for each household. In Dari-e-Zandan, households had an average income diversity score of 2.7 in 2003, whereas the score have slightly increased to 3.6. In many cases the wealthier household often scores higher income diversity measures, however, in this situation the middle income households have same diversity score whereas the wealthy and poor household's diversity score have slightly increased in 2004. The main sources of income in Dari-Zandan were crop production, agricultural day labour, livestock production, collection and sale of natural resources and non-agricultural day labour.

Samangan
Surveillance Unit

National Surveillance System (NSS)

Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan

Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation & Development,
Ministry of Agriculture & Animal Husbandry &
Ministry of Health

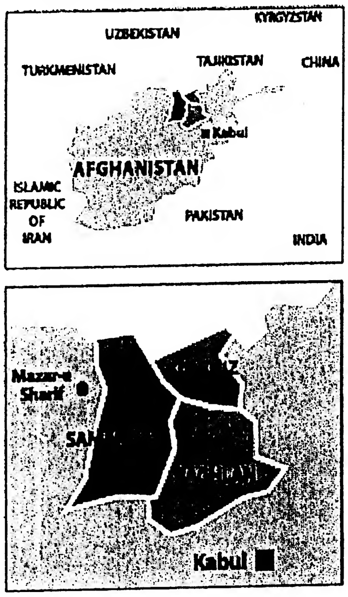
Aybak District

Sharik yar
Sentinel site

Summer 2004

SUMMARY FINDINGS FOR Sharik yar SENTINEL SITE IN AYBAK DISTRICT (These findings are based on field survey of 20 households and Sharik yar village leaders' interview. These findings should not be assumed to representative of other parts of Afghanistan)

By G. Maxwell



Food Security

- Crop production has fallen considerably 2004 compared to the 2003 crop season. The 2003, harvest reported to be a normal harvest year with farmers averaging from 1 to 1.9 tons per hectare. This year with poor rainfall at the beginning and at the end of the cycle and locust damage, average wheat yield were between 500 to 900 kg/hectare. On the same line, the average land accessed by all households has decreased from 338 jiribs of land to 314 jiribs of land in 2004.
- In 2004, only 25 % of those from poor households felt they were not able to buy/cultivate enough food in the past six months. Furthermore, 5% of households worried how they would purchase/cultivate food. On average all households combined had a dietary diversity score of 2.8 against 2.5 in 2003 with an increase of 0.3% in 2004.

Risk to Lives

- The crude mortality rate is not above either of the emergency threshold rate of deaths of people per day. Yet, it is above the normal developing country level of deaths of people per day. Furthermore, for children under five years of age, the mortality rate, does not compare favorably with the stable developing country rate, and is above the emergency threshold rate of deaths people per day. Condition of chronic health problems were very common the surrounding area

Livelihood Security

- 10% of the households' income has decreased for the last six months to compare year ago.
- In 2004, trade of natural resource collection, agricultural day labour, non-agricultural labour and raising livestock were popular livelihood strategy for "poor" and "middle" income women households.

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What is the NSS?

The National Surveillance System monitors trends in key indicators in order to predict early signs of change and deterioration in livelihoods, food security and nutrition. In conjunction with other complementary data collection systems, the NSS provides relevant data for prioritizing limited resources and designing programs.

Methodology

The NSS is based on a sentinel site system, in which provincial level ministries follow a rotating cohort of households' overtime. Sites are selected so that they mirror the majority of the communities with respect to agro-ecological features, economic activities, available services and people in a given area (livelihood / agro-ecological zone). Because of the diversity of livelihoods in Afghanistan, even in rural areas, information from the sentinel may not be representative of every village in the zone. However, it is likely, that the data from one sentinel site can signal concern for other villages in the same zone (See Annex I for detailed information on methodology).

FOOD SECURITY – SHARIK YAR

CROP PRODUCTION

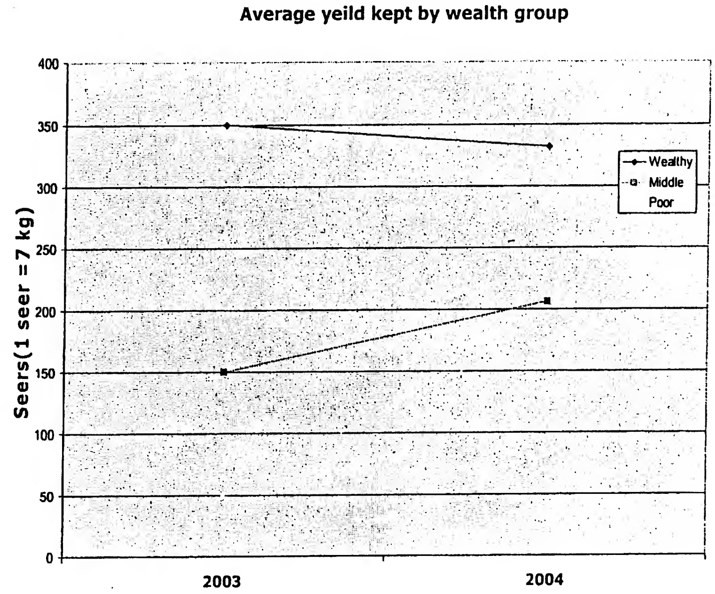
According to FAO report (AFG/94/002) in April 1997, Afghanis consume more wheat per capita than the average 61 grams per day or 220kg per year. Rural and semi-rural areas in Afghanistan remain highly dependant on subsistence agriculture for households' consumption. The Samangan province has great potential for growing mostly temperate fruit crops, various tropical spices, as well as, a wide variety of cereal crops including wheat, rice, and barley. Nevertheless, natural hazards (drought, locust invasions) combined with old-fashion farming practices limit the production. As a result, the reduction of the harvest will affect seasonal agricultural labour patterns in rural areas, reducing labour and income opportunities. This places greater economic strains on households that would eventually force them to purchase wheat at higher prices. The annual wheat production required for Aybak district population of 87670 people is estimated to be 19,300 metric tones per year. This does not include amount of seeds that households will keep for planting in the next growing season.

Area planted

Sharik yar	All households		Wealthy		Middle		Poor	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
% owning rainfed land	75	80	100	100	50	50	57	57
% owing irrigated land	5	5	5	5	0	0	0	0
Average jiribs accessed	339	314	308	294	16	10	15	10

In Afghanistan, irrigated land produce 93% of the total production, while rainfed lands produce the remaining 7% (FAO 1999 report). As shown in the table on the right, the data gathered show that cultivated land varied from season to season and the year to year. On the same line, the average land accessed by all households has reduced from 339 jiribs of land to 314 jiribs of land in 2004. However, the percentage of owning rainfed land has increased by 5%, while the percentage of owning irrigated land stays the same. The "wealthy" household average access of jiribs was reduced from 308 jiribs to 294 in 2004. In contrast, the middle household average of access of land has decreased from 16 to 10 jiribs, where the poor households have also decreased from 15 to 14 jiribs in 2004.

Wheat Production (Yield)



In Sharik yar, agricultural production is the most important source of income with 80% of households engaging crop production. Either some household were sharecroppers or they simply did not own any land, the amount of yield kept by households can differ from the actual harvest.

The graph on the right, presents the average amount of yield retained by the household in 2003 and 2004. It is disaggregated by wealth in order to understand relative differences in food availability by socio-economic groups. The "wealthy" average wheat yield is estimated at 332 Seers compared to 350 Seers in 2003 with a drop of 5%. This may explain that the average land accessed by wealthy group has decreased by 25 jiribs in 2004. Middle household yield a total of 206 Seers compared to 150 Seers in 2003 or an increase of 27%. However, poor household wheat yield is estimated 186 Seers in comparison to 50 Seers in 2003. However, this graph does not necessarily represent the food security.

ASSESSMENT OF CROP LOSSES

Crop production has fallen considerably this year compared to that of 2003 crop season. The 2003 harvest was reported to be a normal harvest year with farmers averaging from 1 to 1.9 tons per hectare. This year with poor rainfall at the beginning and end of the cycle, average wheat yield was between 500 to 900 kg/hectare. During this crop season the situation was exacerbated by locusts, smut diseases and Sunn pest; which destroyed wheat in several districts of the Samangan province. Overall, losses due to locust damage in rainfed areas have been estimated to be 20% in the Samangan provinces. In contrast, the overall losses by locust and drought damage in irrigated land have estimated to be 23% in Samangan (GOAL-Locust impact assessment report 2004).

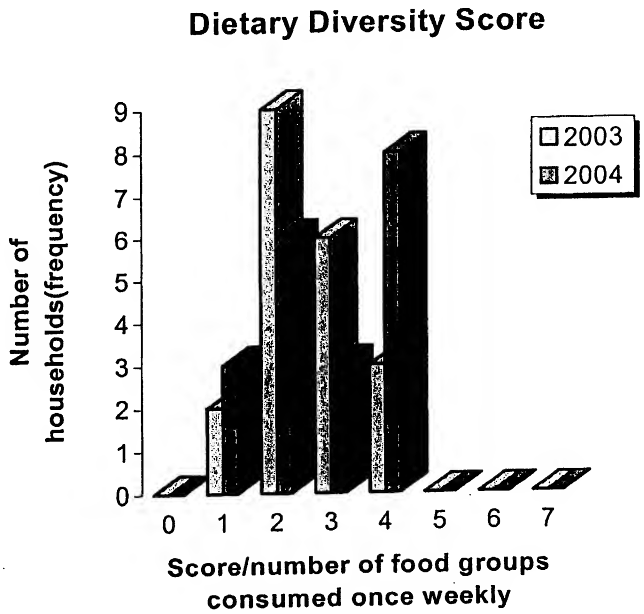
FOOD SECURITY PERCEPTION

Household perception of food security is strongly related to actual food security. In 2003, eleven households (55%) felt they were not able to buy/cultivate enough food four months prior to the survey (35% of these were "poor", 15% from the "middle" and 5% "wealthty" households). In contrast in 2004, only 25 % of those from poor households felt they were not able to buy/cultivate enough food in the past six months. Furthermore, 5% of households worried how they would purchase/cultivate food. None of the households felt their situation was worse compared to six months or year ago. Nonetheless, Enumerators observed that 30% of the "poor" households did not appear to have enough food to survive the winter. None of the interviewed households thought the food security would get worse over the next six months, though many expressed uncertainty about how they could predict changes in food security in their home.

PERCEPTION OF FOOD SECURITY INDICATORS	2003	2004	Change
Consider food situation to be **worse** in comparison to 4/6	0	0	SAME
Consider food situation to be **worse** than one year ago	0	0	SAME
Considered food situation not to be sufficient at time of	55	25	30%
Worried where their food was coming at the time of survey	5	5	SAME
Expect the food situation to be **worse** in the next 4/6	0	0	SAME
Enumerators thought households did not have enough food for the next 4/6 months	35	30	5%

DIETARY DIVERSITY - DIET QUALITY

Dietary diversity is a major component of food security. Previous studies show that Afghani dietary habits are not normally diverse and consequently there is an increased risk of micronutrient deficiency disorders, and related diseases. It is not entirely clear how dietary preferences and food availability interact to determine household diet patterns. To better understand diet quality over the past six months, surveyors asked householders how frequently they ate foods from different food groups. These results were summarized in a dietary diversity score to capture dietary quality and household diet patterns in 2003 and 2004. Household dietary diversity scores are summarized in the graph on the right.

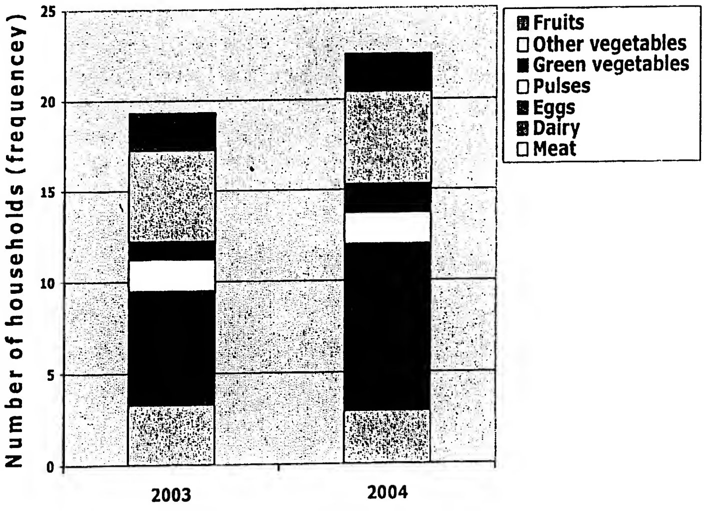


The diversity score is calculated by attributing a score of "1" to each food group that was eaten at least once weekly by a household. Households with a higher diversity score have a more diverse diet. Surveys repeated throughout the country indicate that most households consume cereals or grains on a daily basis and thus, cereals were not included in the diet diversity score. On average all households combined had a dietary diversity, score of 2.5 in 2003 and 2.1 in 2004 with a drop of 0.3%. In 2003, nine out of 20 households scored "2", where in 2004, six out of 20 households scored "2". However, in 2004, eight households scored "4" where in 2003 three households scored "4".

with increased wealth diversity scores improved with arelative scores of 3.2, 2.5 and 2.1 for the "wealthy", "middle" and "poor" household respectively in 2003 and in contrast 2004, with a relative scores of 3.9, 2.3 and 1.7 for the "wealthy", "middle" and "poor' households respectively. However, the survey shows that diversity scores of both "middle" and "poor" households declined slightly in 2004, where the "wealthy" diversity score increased. These results suggest that "wealthy" households either have the means to buy more expensive foods, or, have acquired a preference for a more diverse diet. However, it is uncertain if the varieties of food available are seasonal, imported during the off-season, or, produced locally.

The graph on the right reflects the average frequency of consumption of food. The data shows that all households are eating protein rich foods (meat, milk, eggs and pulse) at least once a month to once a week to complement cereals (wheat and barley). However, the data indicates a slight seasonality changes on eggs dairy product, meat and green vegetables in 2004. The average frequency dairy product consumptions by households has increased from 1.6 to 5.4 in 2004. In contrast, both meat and eggs had decreased from 3.3 to 2.9, and from 4.6 to 3.7 respectively. Furthermore, household green vegetables average frequency consumption, shows a slight increase in 2004. However, this data does not allow inferences regarding protein sufficiency.

Average frequency of food group consumption by wealth groups in 2003 and 2004



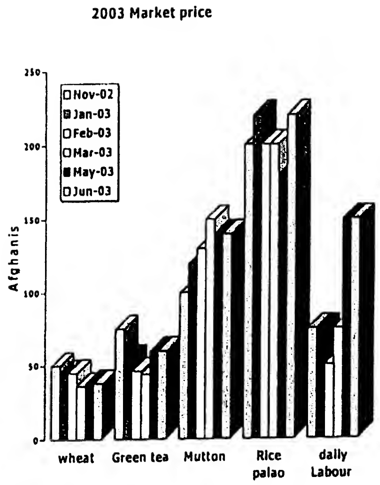
As the data regarding quantity and consumption practices were not collected, no inferences can be made regarding the adequacy of vitamin and mineral intake. Nonetheless, this data suggests that the areas that need additional research include:

1. Vitamin A sufficiency (animal sources and beta-carotene from plant sources);
2. Calcium sufficiency (milk and water, most water is hard, sources), and;
3. Vitamin C sufficiency (fresh plant sources).

These concerns are based on the frequency of consumption reported by households and the limited availability of these foods compared to other items.

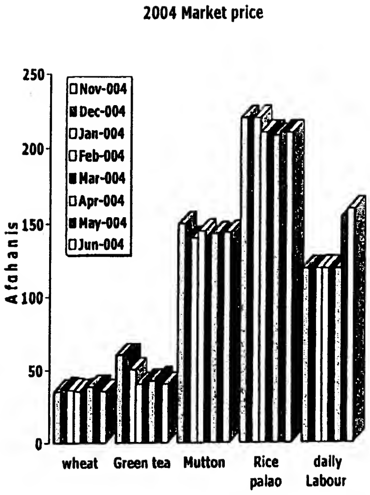
MARKET ACCESS

Aybak city is the closest food market to Sharik yar, accessible by foot or vehicle (two hours by foot or donkey).The road built by GOAL is in relatively good condition. According to this survey, some travel by vehicle (150 Af's per trip) but the cost may vary according to the person's location in the village. Most Sharik yar residents access Aybak market in order to trade wheat, livestock, and to also purchase food, and non-food items. Market transactions are in cash based and most households send one person to the market on market days (Mondays and Thursdays, weekly). The market is open year-round and is one of the most important trading locations for local districts including Samangan and the surrounding provinces.



MARKET PRICES

As shown both on the right and left graphs no significant price change was reported between the two surveys. Sharik yar households rely on Aybak market for food and non-food items, in which 50% of households purchase wheat. Wheat prices have been stable over the past year and impact daily labour rates, since many workers are paid wheat for work. When prices decrease, whilst labour rates increase, it then becomes more profitable to work for wheat compared to growing your own crop.



As shown on the graph to the left, wheat and green tea prices have been stable this year. However, daily labour rates increased from March 2003 reaching a peak of 200 Af's per day in June. Rates then began decreasing in November. The same trends held for both rice and mutton. Rice reached a peak of 220 Af's per Kg from January, June and November, 2003 and January 2004. Mutton prices reached a maximum price of 150 Af's in January, March, and November 2003.

Mutton and rice increases directly impact village food security; since these are staple food items. Households also purchase vegetable items (potatoes, spring onions, okra and carrots) from Aybak market: prices have remained steady. There are seasonal shortages of some vegetables, though this does not seem to impact vegetable prices nor the demand increase during the off-season. Households simply purchase what is available at that time, in the market.

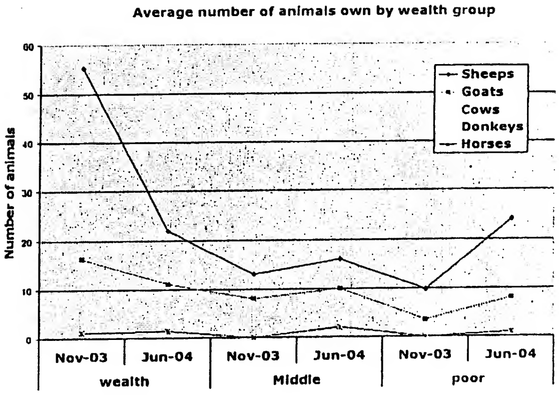
LIVESTOCK

In Sharik yar, the availability of adequate supply of water for people, livestock consumption, and for crops, is a major recurring problem for most households. Livestock, particularly cattle rearing, traditionally holds a major economic and social place in the region. It provides 25% of the households' primary income source. However, animal numbers fluctuate widely from one year to next as most people tend to invest their savings in livestock in good years, while the sale of animals, acts as a cushion during the years of poor harvest. A previous study in March 2002, showed that livestock populations in Afghanistan have declined by 60%. In Samangan, it has been estimated to be on 80% in average loss of all animal stock. With calving and lambing rates ranges between 30% to 80%. The number of animals are slowly climbing, but is still not close to the pre-drought figures.

As shown in the table on the right, the livestock has been hit by the destruction of grazing land caused by drought and locust damage. Both the percent of household owning livestock (sheep, goats and cows) and the average number of livestock (sheep, goats and donkeys) per household has declined in 2004 compared to that of 2003. In contrast, the percent of households owning horses has increased.

	% households owning livestock		Average number of livestock	
	Nov 2003	June 2004	Nov 2003	June 2004
Sheep	75	70	38	21
Goats	70	65	13	10
Cows	40	35	1.5	1.5
Donkeys	90	90	2	1.7
Horses	35	45	1	1.5

Livestock ownership is a source of income for 85% households in the area. Of these households, mostly 45% were from "wealthy" and 20% from "poor" households and 20% were from "middle" income households. As indicated the graph on to right the destruction of animals has been hit hard for the wealthy households, by far in comparison, with middle and the poor households which shows only slight increases of number of animals in 2004 than 2003.



Reflecting on the poor quality of pastures which were seriously affected by both locust and poor rainfall in many parts of the area, animals are in poor condition. As early in January 2004, some households (wealthy) started selling a living substantial number of goats (38), sheep (47) in order to avoid losses; and also to meet their own subsistence needs 22 sheep, and 20 goats were killed during this difficult inter-season period. Animal does need to be replenished by using longer-term breeding programmes, credit initiatives, loans or other schemes that will allow the farmer to access funds in order to purchase new animals.

Livestock disease

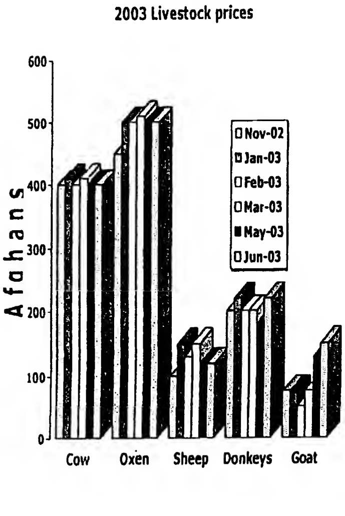
	Sheep and Goats (% affected)	
	2003	2004
Enterotoxaemia	-	1.3
Foot and Mouth	50	-
Sheep Pox	42	-

When asked about livestock diseases, village leaders noted that sheep and goats were affected by sheep Pox, and cattle sometimes suffered from foot and mouth disease. In 2003, 50 heads of cattle were owned in Sharik yar and 50% were said to be infected with foot and mouth disease. With 2004 results, the total number of cattle was 30 heads and none were infected was reported. However, both results show that no cattle were observed with the disease, and no households offered evidence that any animals had died with the disease. Foot and mouth cannot be ruled out in Aybak district since this has been a problem in the past, but more evidence is required to support the claim that this disease is still a problem.

There were 600 heads of sheep and goat in Sharik yar in 2003, with 42% suffering from sheep and goat pox (SGP). In comparison, looking at the 2004 results the number of the sheep and goats have been more than a double (1500 heads) with no sheep Pox disease infection. No vaccination clinics have occurred in the last six months, though a veterinary clinic and hospital exist in Aybak city. Medicines are not available provincially to treat the condition, and vaccination is the most effective way to prevent animal losses. Of available vaccinations, the most effective seem to be the Romanian and Kenyan O 180 strains that offer best safety and efficacy (Jubby et al., pp. 466-469).

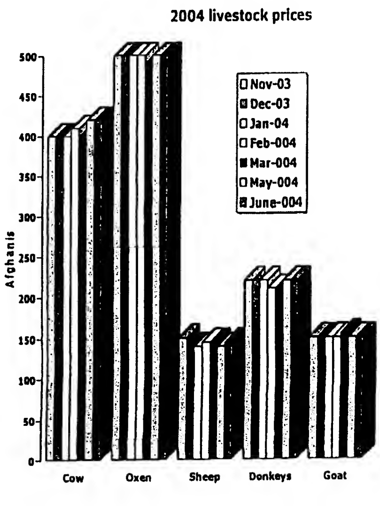
Livestock Prices

There were no significant changes as demonstrate within both graphs seen here. Sharik yar and surrounding villages rely on the Aybak city markets livestock purchase and sales.



As seen on the left, both qaraqal sheep and cow prices remained stable from November 2002 until January 2004. However, oxen prices increased between February and January 2004. Goat prices were stable at approximately $150, with seasonal variation.

Donkeys are considered to be the second most important animal to own. Prices tended to remain stable around $220, though some seasonal variation existed.



Grazing land and Access to Water

Sharik yar and surrounding area environment is relatively hostile and fragile, market by scarcity of water resources. The climatic constraints are severe, and continued reduce rainfall from one year to the next. According to village leaders, access to grazing land has decreased in the last six months prior to the survey. Grassland productivity has been similar to previous years, while access to water has decreased this year. However, water shortages between 1999 and 2002, did play a role in subsequent animal losses. Unfortunately, local authorities were not able to use changes in to grassland and water access in order to predict future threats to livestock. Increased awareness of threats to grazing land access; might have allowed communities to protect themselves better against drought related animal losses. In addition, common grazing land is sometimes compromise by illegal cultivation of rainfed wheat. This practice can also compromise community animal stocks.

RISKS TO LIVES – SHARIK YAR

The risk to lives section in this report, highlights areas in the country, where individuals are more at risk of dying and at the same time, understand the reasons behind this increased risk. It particularly focuses on better understanding of the links between nutritional risks, food insecurity and mortality.

MORTALITY INDICATORS:

The current crude mortality rate (CMR) of 0.8 against 0.5 in 2003 in Sharik yar is not above the emergency threshold rate of 1.0 deaths/10,000 people per day. Yet, it is higher then the normal developing country level of 0.5 deaths/10,000 people per day. Children under five years of age has a mortality rate of 2.3, does not compare favourably with, the stable developing rate of 1.0 deaths/10,000 people per day. It is above the emergency threshold rate of 2.0 deaths/10,000 people per day.

Because of the high rate of maternal and child mortality, this study also looked at the number of children who had a skilled birth attendant present at delivery, as a proxy for risk to lives, of both the mothers giving birth and the new infants. Of the number of children born in the last 6 months, the percentage of births attended by a skilled birth attendant is 20.0%. This figure, however, is not likely to include stillbirths or children who died during the last six months, due to the difficulty of obtaining such information.

RISKS TO LIVES INDICATORS	% Nov 2003	% June 2004	Change
Mortality Indicators			
Crude mortality in last 4/6 months (Deaths / 10, 000 / day)	0.5	0.8	0.3
Under 5 mortality in last 4/6 months (Deaths / 10, 000 / day)	0.5	2.3	1.8
Births in last 4 months attended by a Skilled Birth Attendant (n=8)	20	20	0
Morbidity Indicators			
Children < 5 years with watery diarrhoea (n=25)	9.5	16	6.5
Children < 5 years with bloody diarrhoea (n=25)	4.8	4	0.8
Children < 5 with ARI (n=25)	14.3	28	13.7
Children between 6 and 59 months with measles vaccination (n=21)	100.0	84	16
Child Anthropometric Status (WFH % of median and MUAC)			
Children with global acute malnutrition (Oedema/Severe/Moderate) (n=42) (n=26)	0.5[1]	0.5[11]	0
Children > 6 months and <59 months with Oedema (n=21)	0	0	0
Children > 6 and <59 months with severe acute malnutrition (n=21)	0	0	0
Children > 6 and <59 months with moderate acute malnutrition (n=21)	0	0	0
Children > 1 year and <59 months with a MUAC under 13.5 cm (n=21)	4.8	4.2	0.8
Children > 1 year and <59 months with a MUAC under 12 cm (n=21)	4.8	0	4.8
Adult Women Anthropometric Status			
Reproductive age women (15-49 years) with a MUAC < 23.0 cm (n=23)	39	21	18
Reproductive age women (15-49 years) with a MUAC < 21.0 cm (n=23)	8.7	3.6	5.1
Micronutrient Deficiencies			
Households with iodised salt (only includes households with salt) (n=20)	0	20	20

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[1] (CI: 0.43 to 0.61): The confidence interval is calculated for a random sample with a small (finite) population.

MORBIDITY INDICATORS:

The morbidity indicators included in the surveillance system that are associated with a risk of mortality, and are the primary causes of death for children under five in Afghanistan. The incidence of watery diarrhea among children under five years of age is 16% compared to 9.5%, this is cause of concern. The presence of bloody diarrhea in 4% of the children in the village; indicates a more serious concern. The data shows a drop of 0.8% from this round data, but is still more concerned for children less than five years of age in Sharik yar. Many of the cases of diarrhea diseases might be attributed to hygiene practices and a shortage of water. The percent of children under five suffering from Acute Respiratory Infections: is 28% against 14.3% in 2003. This increase shows it has almost doubled which is cause of concern. Measles vaccination coverage in Afghanistan, is 95%, and MOH figures for the Aybak district report coverage to be: 85% on June 20, 003. The measles vaccination coverage of 84%, in this round of data coverage, is consistent with other figures.

CHILDREN NUTRITIONAL STATUS:

Using weight for height percentage as the median, the data shows no Global Acute malnutrition (GAM) for children between 6 to 59 months. None of the children were found to be severely malnourished (less than 70% weight-for -height percent of the median), moderately malnourished or suffering from oedema.

Children classified as moderately malnourished by MUAC measurements (less than 13 cm) are potentially at risk of mortality. About 4% of the children in the survey were reported to be malnourished (less than 13 cm). This figure, along with the weight-for- height percent as median suggests that acute malnutrition for children, in this age group, was not a cause of concern for the village.

ADULT WOMEN NUTRITIONAL STATUS:

Low MUACs in reproductive-age women has been associated with high child and maternal mortality making it an important indicator for increased risks to adult women mortality. The data shows, in Sharik yar both women who have a MUAC below 23.0 cm and women have a MUAC below 21.0 cm have dropt 18% and 5.1% in 2004 respectively with women with MUAC below 23 cm and women have a MUAC below 21.0 cm.

MICRONUTRIENT DEFICIENCIES:

The presence of iodised salt in the house is a proxy for its use. 20% households had iodised salt in this round of the survey, in comparison, to zero households having iodized salt surveyed in Nov 2003.

HEALTH FACILITIES:

The table below lists the health services and facilities that are available to the people in Sharik yar and surrounding area. However, there are no health facilities in Sharik yar itself and all the residents of the neighboring villages must travel to Aybak City (Provincial Capital City) for health services. Aybak city has one hospital and four comprehensive health centres, and number of private doctors. People travel there using public transportation, in which it costs 150 afs to get to Aybak city from sharik yar. Travel to Aybak is possible in all seasons, including winter.

In Sharik yar itself, there are number of traditional birth attendants (TBA) who help the village women with birth deliveries. The birth attendant usually comes to the woman's house for the services. The common custom of TBA is for this village and the surrounding areas is that there are no fixed charges for the TBA services and, as such, each household pays what they are able to afford, in accordance to their class with in the community. The TBA fee ranges from zero to 100 afs and can be in cash or kind. Many households in this village pay for their TBA services by using food and non-food items.

All the government health services in Aybak City are free of charge, and as a result they are used largely by low and middle income families. The wealthy class of Sharik yar and the surrounding area, go to private doctors; which charge 40 Afs per visit. Many people believe that the services at private doctor are better than those of the government. Thus, if one is able to afford 40 Afs he/she should go to the private doctor. Either way medicine needs to be paid for in both cases. There are also skilled birth attendants in Aybak City hospitals and additionally, there is a private service that people may use in the case of severe emergencies or complications. This type of private service is very expensive.

Health Facilities Table

	Location of facility	Time taken to reach facility	Cost of getting to the facility (Afs)	Access to facility	Facility Accessible in winter and Spring
Health posts	Aybak	Two to three hours	150	Everybody	Same
Basic Health Centre	Aybak	Two to three hour s	150	Everybody	Same
Comprehensive Health Centre	Aybak	Two to three hours	150	Everybody	Same
Hospital	Aybak	Two to three hours	150	Everybody	Same
Traditional healers/Birth Attendants	Sharik yar	Five minutes	0	Women	Same
Skilled birth attendant	Aybak	Two to three hours	150	Everybody	Same
Private doctor	Aybak	Two to three hours	150	Everybody	Same

The use of health facilities has stayed constant in the last four months.

WATER SOURCES:

In the Sharik yar village, the public sources of water include open wells and Kandas. In addition to that, most households have wells in their houses. Those who do not have wells in their houses, obtain water from the village's Kanda. The Kandas are usually located near the mosques. In most cases the men of the family are who bring water from the Kanda to the household. The people reported that, the quantity and quality of water available from the Kandas and open well have stayed the same in comparison to last year. The main priority for the village is to get more access to clean drinking water through the construction of more hand pumps or deep wells.

Drinking Water Source Table

(Source listed in order of use)	Time taken for water collection	Quality change since last year	Quantity change since last year
Open well	Less than hour	Same	Same
Kanda	Less than 30 minutes	Same	Same

SANITATION FACILITIES:

There are three common types of toilets in the Sharik yar area: open area, vault latrine and deep latrine. The majority of households have a deep latrine toilet in their houses. The vault latrine is usually located in public places like schools and mosques. They are always separated for men and women. The very low income households of Sharik yar, who can not afford to build a latrine, have an open area toilet.

CONCLUSION: RISKS TO LIVES

The crude mortality rate is not above either of the emergency threshold rate of deaths of people per day, but is above the normal developing country level of deaths of people per day. Furthermore, for children under five years of age, the mortality rate, does not compare favorably with the stable developing country rate, and is above the emergency threshold rate of deaths people per day. Condition of chronic health problems were very common the surrounding area.

In Sharik yar, water and sanitation are completely inadequate. Presumably, the rates of water diarrhea can be attributed to these two factors. This needs to be improved as soon as possible. Adequate preventative, and curative health facilities and services; should be available and accessible to the village community.

Extended programme of immunization (EPI) is needed. Measles vaccination coverages is poor and is probably interesting to know, if it is interrupting measles virus transmission. Moreover, community training in public health; traditional birth attendance training and providing basic tools, health and hygienic promotion, subsidized medical treatment, and basic drugs for women and children; is essential as is introducing the community to toilets and other sanitation programmes, that will improve the condition of Sharik yar 's health problem.

LIVELIHOOD SECURITY – SHARIK YAR

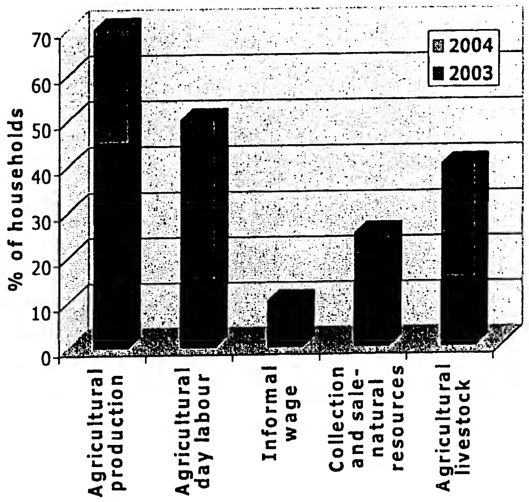
Livelihood Strategies:

The primary income source of most households in Sharik yar during the survey period were agricultural crop production, agricultural day labour, livestock, and the collection and sale of natural resources.

As shown in the graph on the right, there are some primary income source changes, in relation to seasonality. In 2003, the percentage of households that were engaged in crop production has reduced from 45% to 25%. In contrast, agriculture day labour percentage of households, have increased from 15% to 35%. Furthermore, collection and sale of natural resources households have reduced from 20% to 5%, whereas, the percentage of households who were engaged in livestock production have increased from 15% to 25%.

The table below captures the percentage of households engaged in different activities. This provides an indication of the relative importance of different livelihood strategies have to the community. With regard to seasonality changes, with exception of informal wage labour, Spinning/carpet labour, and the rental income, the rest of activities the percentage of households in 2003 have been increased in 2004.

Primary source of income for households



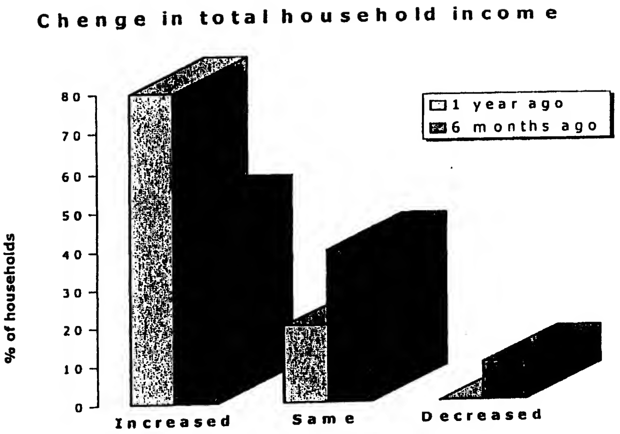
N=20 Households	Percent of households with Income Source		Percentage of households with Women's Income Source	
	2003	2004	2003	2004
Spinning/ carpets labour	0	0	5 --	5 --
Agricultural labour	45	75	0	90
Agricultural livestock	70	85	5	60
Take a loan	5	20	0	15
Agricultural crops	75	80	0	75
Non-agriculture day labour	30	15	0	55
Collection–natural resources	45	55	5	15
Informal wage labour	15	0	0	0
Rental income	5	0	0	0
Gifts/Gleaning	5	5	2.5	0

Data regarding women's income activities can clarify the role of women in current livelihoods strategies and identify potential for future involvement. In 2003 women's income activities were only carpets, gifts, livestock, and the collecting and selling of the natural resources. However, in 2004 the data show that women were also engaged in agricultural labour, crop production and non-agricultural day labour. Female headed households were very poor. The main problem is illiteracy, unemployment, poor infrastructure, and lack of resources. A number of widows have receive wool material from GOAL for making gillams and carpets.

LIVELIHOOD SHOCKS:

GENERAL LIVELIHOOD SHOCKS or CONSTRAINTS:

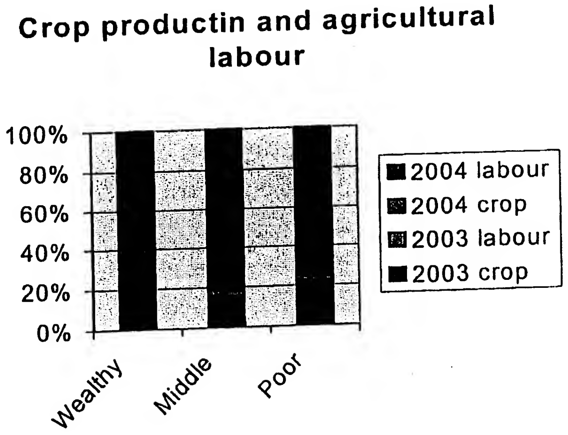
The graph on the right shows that 10% of the households' income has decreased for the last six months to compare year ago. In the previous year, 20% of households' incomes stayed the same. Income increases followed the same trend: Only 50% households reported an increase in the last six months, compared to 80% in the previous year. This suggests that livelihoods are not yet secure. Households with steady incomes did not share similar livelihoods. Thus it does not appear that a specific shock is responsible. Instead, this might be a normal variation.



Crop production and agricultural daily labour:

Agricultural labour throughout the year brings in a wage between 75 to 200 afs per day, but during the harvest, instead of a daily wage in cash; people are paid in wheat or barley. Crop production and daily labour were the main sources of income and have a major impact on the livelihood of the "poor" Sharik yar households.

The graph on the right demonstrates the percentage of households of all wealth groups engaged in crop production and agriculture labour. The wealthy and the poor household's crop production stayed the same as in 2003. Whereas, the middle households have increased by 25% (from 50% to 75%) in 2004. However, the percentage of poor households that engaged in agricultural day labour, have increased by 29% (from 57% to 86%), whereas, wealthy households have increased to 45 %(from 11% to 56%) in 2004.



Shocks to Agricultural Yields

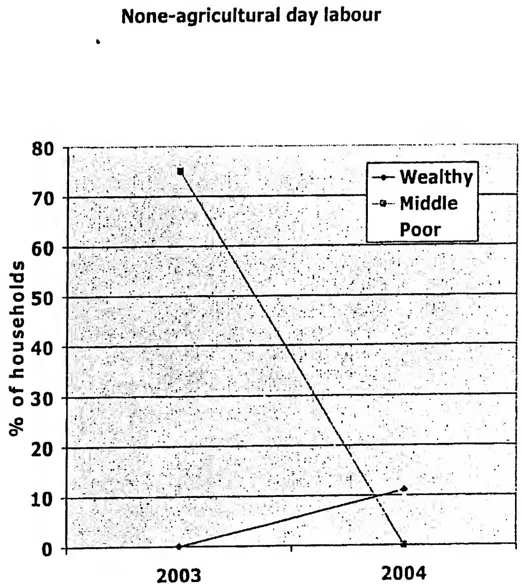
In Sharik yar, 5% of households reported 20-50% of crop losses. Zero households reported more than 20-50% crop losses. However, it seems the crop losses were specific to the one household.

COLLECTION AND SALE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

In 2003, 9 households collected and sold natural resources whereas 11 household collected and sold natural resources in 2004. Of these four were "poor", four were "middle" and three "wealthy". All 11 households collected and sold bushes, asafo, and animal manure. Furthermore, the data shows that two 'poor" households collected and sold Cumi. The livelihood activities were negatively impacted by recent drought. Lack of rain meant that bushes did not grow as well, and fewer animals led to a reduced amount of dung available for collection. The future availability of these resources did not appear to be compromised; since animal stocks would be replenished. Also the bushes are cut above the root system, so that they would grow again during growing season. Despite the drought, bush prices have remained stable, but fewer households collect this resource as market rates for day labour are more profitable for households.

Shocks to non- Agricultural

Non-Agricultural Labour (skilled and unskilled manual labour)



In Sharik yar, 15% of man and 55% of women households claimed manual labour as an income sources in 2003, against 30% of man households in 2004. 15% of households claimed manual labour as an income source. Most (10%) households were from "poor" households and (5%) were from "wealthy" income households.

As the graph to the right demonstrates, zero of wealthy households engaged in non-agricultural day labour in 2003; whereas 5% were engaged in 2004. For the middle income households 75% were engaged in 2003, but none of the middle income households reported an income from non-agricultural day labour 2004. Furthermore, the data shows that the percent of poor households that were engaged in non-agricultural day labour has been reduced from 42% to 10% in 2004. This is due to seasonal changes, and as we have seen in the above crop production and agricultural day labour graph that all wealth group agricultural labour have increased and so that it is more wealthy households, that were busy with agricultural labour, rather than non-agricultural day labour during this particular time of year.

OTHER INCOME SOURCES

In Sharik yar, no household reported Remittance, Rental income, Loan repayment, Mortgage as an income sources, formal wage and informal wage labour.

Loans

Four households of (2) from middle and (2) poor households used a loan in 2004, in comparison to only one "wealthy" household took a loan as source of income in 2003.

Gifts/Gleaning

One household from the "poor" household reported gifts/gleaning as an income source for both years. The household reported an income increase.

Coping strategies

The coping strategies included here are by no means inclusive of all strategies invoked by households to survive tough times; instead, it focuses on behaviours predictive of declining livelihood, and food security in Afghanistan in which is easily measured.
The list was divided into erosive and non-erosive coping strategies, in order to, understand impacts on households' future livelihood security. The division is not mutually exclusive as the loss of a bicycle, motorcycle or car may also impact future opportunities. Similarly, the order of the list does not reflect a continuum of behaviour. The coping strategies listed are meant to be general indicators of a worsening situation; however, households experiencing chronic and transitory poverty, who engage in these activities on a regular basis.

None Erosive coping strageries

In order to meet their expenses, 5% of households sold non-productive assets such as gillams, and carpets in 2004. Less than half (30%) of households have engaged in longer hours of work. Food consumption patterns and sources of food are also key indicators of household vulnerability. 5% of the families interviewed, had been eating dried bread, which clearly highlights a situation of food insecurity. In addition to changes in food consumption, most of the families needed external support for food needs. 20% of the families had to borrow food from their relatives in order to make a meal in the last six months.

	2003	**2004**
Sold Carpet / Gilims from the house	0	5
Household members worked more hours to make daily expenses	30	30
Households who borrowed food from relatives to make a meal	20	20
Households who had been consuming dried bread	5	5
Household took out loan	5	20
Household who took food on credit from shop	35	25

Erosive and distress coping strategies

It is apparent that strategies adapted by households to deal with shocks varied with individuals, households and villages. In Sharik yar, 5% of households used loans as a coping strategy, whereas 20% used a loan as coping strategy to meet daily expenses in 2004. In the same way, up to 35% of the households took food on credit in 2003, whereas 25% took food on credit from local shops. It is apparent that both "poor" and "middle" households are extremely vulnerable as they jeopardize future production capacity to cover immediate needs.

Income Diversity and Capacity to Cope – Risk to Livelihoods

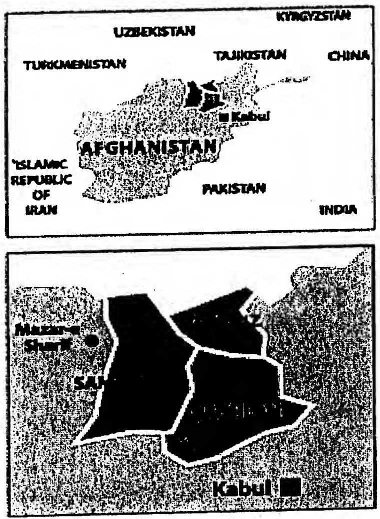
Households capacity to absorb shocks and to adapt to stresses induced by climate, price instability, unemployment, and complex emergencies such as political crisis. However, households with various income sources are better able to cope than households who rely on one or two income sources. The income diversity score is simply a count of the number of income sources for each household. In Sharik yar, households had an average income diversity score of 2.9 in 2003, whereas the score had slightly increased to 3.4. In many cases the wealthier households often score higher score, yet, in this situation the middle income households have a slightly higher score than the wealthy and poor households. The main sources of income in Sharik yar was crop production, livestock production, collection and sale of natural resources and agricultural day labour.

	Average Income Diversity Score	
	2003	2004
Wealth	2.7 3.8	3.1 2.9
Middle	3.8	4.3
Poor	3.9	3.3
All households	2.9	3.4

Samangan Surveillance Unit	National Surveillance System (NSS) Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation & Development, Ministry of Agriculture & Animal Husbandry & Ministry of Health	Hazrat Sultan District Sarqia Afghania Sentinel site Summer 2004

SUMMARY FINDINGS FOR SARQIA AFGHANIA SENTINEL SITE IN HAZRAT SULTAN DISTRICT

(These findings are based on field survey of 20 households and Dara-e-Zandan village leaders interview. These findings should not be assumed to representative of other parts of Afghanistan)



By G. Maxwell

What is the NSS?

The National Surveillance System monitors trends in key indicators in order to predict early signs of change and deterioration in livelihoods, food security and nutrition. In conjunction with other complementary data collection systems, the NSS provides relevant data for prioritizing limited resources and designing programs.

Methodology

The NSS is based on a sentinel site system, in which provincial level ministries follow a rotating cohort of households' overtime. Sites are selected so that they mirror the majority of the communities with respect to agro-ecological features, economic activities, available services and people in a given area (livelihood / agro-ecological zone). Because of the diversity of livelihoods in Afghanistan, even in rural areas, information from the sentinel may not be representative of every village in the zone. However, it is likely, that the data from one sentinel site can signal concern for other villages in the same zone (See Annex I for detailed information on methodology).

Hd

FOOD SECURITY –SARQIA AFGHANIA

CROP PRODUCTION

The Samangan province has great potential for growing mostly of temperate fruit crops and various tropical spices, as well as, a wide variety of cereal crops including wheat; rice and barley. Nevertheless, natural hazards (drought, locust invasions) combined with old-fashion farming practices limit the production. Rural and semi-rural areas in Afghanistan remain highly dependant on subsistence agriculture for households' consumption. As a result, the reduction of the harvest will affect seasonal agricultural labour patterns in rural areas, reducing labour and income opportunities. This places greater economic strains on households that would eventually force them to purchase wheat at higher prices. The annual wheat production required for Hazrat Sultan district population of 87670 people estimated to be 19,300 metric tones per year. This does not include amount of seeds that households will keep for planting in the next growing season.

Area planted

Land access and ownership is the key prerequisite for agricultural production.

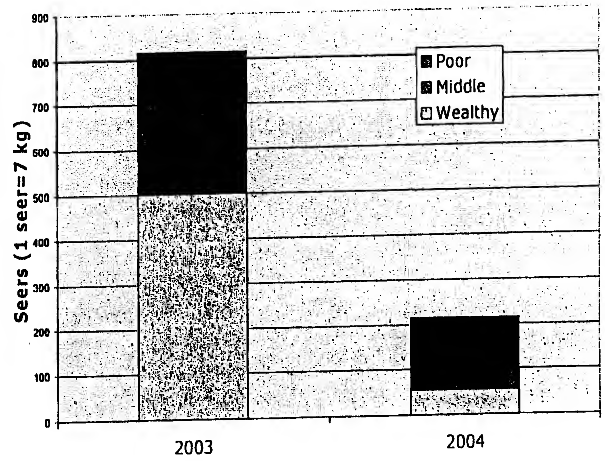
Sarqia Afghania	All households		Wealthy		Middle		Poor	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
% household owning rainfed land	85	100	100	100	80	100	83	100
average jiribs accessed land	781	807	465	466	140	142	187	199

As shown in the table on the right, the data gathered shows that cultivated land varied from season to season and year to year. On the same line, the average land accessed by all households has been increased from 781 jiribs of land to 807 jiribs of land in 2004. However, the percentage of households owning rainfed land has increased by 15%. The "wealthy" household average access jiribs increased from 465 jiribs to 466 in 2004. In contrast, the middle household average access land has increased by 2 jiribs, whereas the poor households also increased by 12 jiribs in 2004. The **data clearly indicates that land ownership is a key characteristic of wealth differentiation in the community. Though draft oxen are extremely important to household crop production, and in Sarqia Afghania. It was found that no households owned oxen.**

Wheat Production (Yield)

Agricultural production is the most important source of income with 90% of households engaging crop production. As some of the households do not own land rather some were sharecroppers. The amount of yield kept by households can differ from the actual harvest.

Average yield kept by wealth groups in 2003 and 2004



The graph on the right, presents the average amount of yield retained from rainfed land by the household in 2003 and 2004. It is disaggregated by wealth to understand relative differences in food availability by socio-economic groups. The "wealthy" average rainfed wheat yield is estimated at 55 Seers against 500 Seers in 2003 with a drop of 89%. Middle household wheat yield totaled 80 Seers against 250 Seers in 2003 with a drop of 68%. However, poor household wheat yield is estimated 80 Seers against 65 Seers in 2003 with an increase of 19%. In addition, the average amount of yield kept from the irrigated land by the households was 383 seers, 95 seers and 78 sees for the wealthy, middle and poor households respectively in 2004. However, this graph does not necessarily represent the food security.

ASSESSMENT OF CROP LOSSES

Crop production has fallen considerably this year compared to the 2003 crop season. The 2003 harvest was reported to be a normal harvest year with farmers averaging from 1 to 1.9 tons per hectare. This year with poor rainfall at the beginning and at the end of cycle, average wheat yield were between 500 to 900 kg/hectare. During this crop season the situation was exacerbated by locusts, smut diseases and Sunn pest. They destroyed wheat in several districts in the Samangan province. Overall losses due to locust damage in rainfed areas have been estimated to be at 20% in Samangan provinces. In contrast, the overall losses by locust and drought damage in irrigated land have been estimated at 23% in Samangan (GOAL-Locust impact assessment report 2004).

FOOD SECURITY PERCEPTION

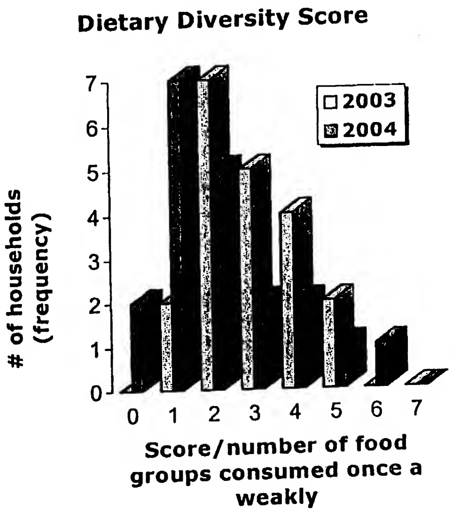
In 2004, more (10%) of households felt they were not able to buy/cultivate enough food six months prior to the survey, in comparison with 2003. Of these households they were all from the poor income households. In 2004, none of households worried about how they would purchase/cultivate food; in contrast 5% of households were worried in 2003. Nonetheless, Enumerators observed more (5%) of households (all poor households) did not appear to have enough food to survive for the few months. None of the interviewed households thought that food security would get worse over the next six months; though many expressed uncertainty about how they could predict changes in food security in their home.

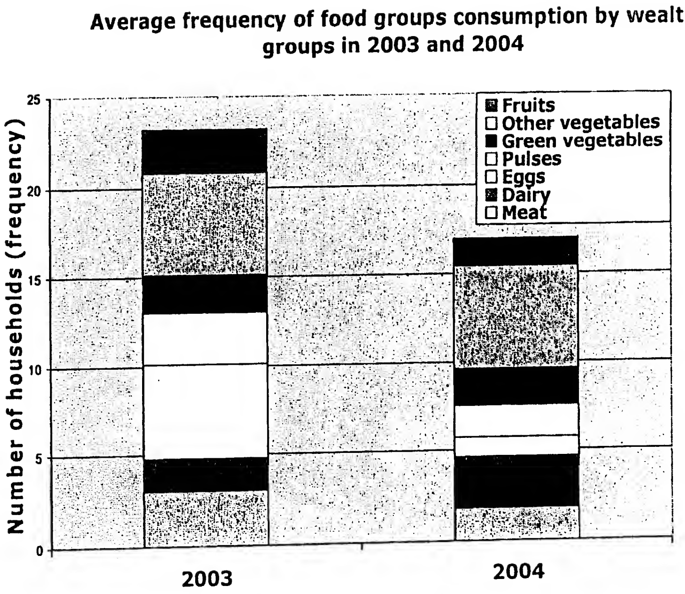
PERCEPTION OF FOOD SECURITY INDICATORS	2003 (%)	2004 (%)	Change (%)
Consider food situation to be **worse** in comparison to 4/6 months ago	0	5	0
Consider food situation to be **worse** than one year ago	0	0	0
Considered food situation not to be sufficient at time of survey	55	65	10
Worried where their food was coming at the time of survey	5	0	5
Expect the food situation to be **worse** in the next 4/6 months	0	0	0
Enumerators thought households did not have enough food for the next 4/6 months	55	60	5

DIETARY DIVERSITY - DIET QUALITY

Household dietary diversity scores are summarized in the graph on the right. *The diversity score is calculated by attributing a score of "1" to each food group that was eaten at least once week by a household. Households with a higher diversity score have a more diverse diet.* Surveys repeated throughout the country indicate that most households consume cereals or grains on a daily basis and thus, cereals were not included in the diet diversity score. On average all households combined, had a dietary diversity score of 1.8 against 2.9 in 2003 or a drop of 1.1 dietary diversity score in 2004.

The histogram on the right shows that in 2004, most households (9 and 7 households) scored "1" and " 2' respectively. In contrast, in 2003, most households scored "2" "3" and "4". Furthermore, in both years, no household scored "6" and "7". Diversity scores are relatively or slightly different between wealth groups. "Wealthy" groups scored of 5 against 4 in 2003 whereas "middle" scored 1.4 against 3.5 in 2003 and poor wealth groups scored 1.7 against 2.4 in 2003. These results suggest that wealthy households either have the means to buy more expensive foods or, do acquire a preference for a more diverse diet.




Average frequency of food groups consumption by wealth groups in 2003 and 2004

The graph on the right reflects the average frequency of consumption for food. The data shows that all households are eating protein rich foods (meat, milk, eggs and pulse) at least once a month to once a week to complement cereals (wheat and barley). However, the data indicates a slightly decrease on most food group consumption in 2004 and this could well be a seasonal change.

The average frequency dairy product consumption by households has increased from 1.8 to 2.8 in 2004. With same trend both meat and eggs were decreased from 3 to 1.8 and from 5.3 to 1.1 respectively. Furthermore, household green vegetables, pulses, fruits and other vegetables averaged a frequency consumption shows a slight decrease in 2004. However this data does not allow inferences regarding protein sufficiency.

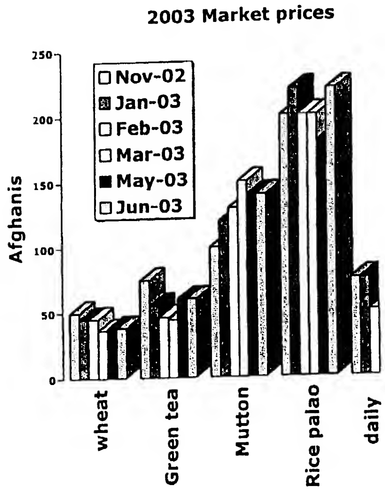
As the data regarding quantities and consumption practices were not collected, no inferences can be made regarding the adequacy of vitamin and mineral intakes. Nonetheless, this data suggests that the areas that need additional research include:

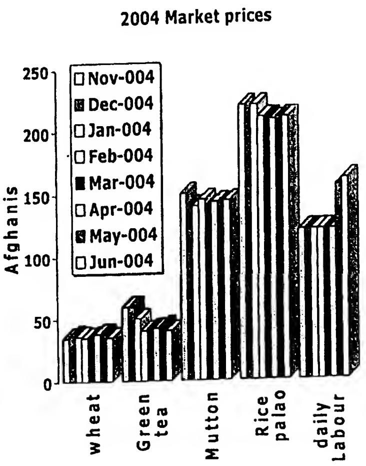
1. Vitamin A sufficiency (animal sources and beta-carotene from plant sources);
2. Calcium sufficiency (milk and water, most water is hard, sources), and;
3. Vitamin C sufficiency (fresh plant sources).

These concerns are based on the frequency of consumption reported by households and the limited availability of these foods compared to other items.

MARKET ACCESS

Aybak city is the closest food market to Sarqia Afghania, accessible by foot or Vehicle (two hours by foot or donkey).The road built by GOAL is in relatively good condition. According to this survey, some travel by vehicle (150 Af's per trip) but the cost may vary according to the person's location in the village. Most Sarqia Afghania residents access Aybak market to trade wheat and livestock, and also purchase food and non-food items. Market transactions are cash based, and most households will send one person to the market; on market days (Mondays and Thursdays, weekly). The market is open year-round and is one of the most important trading locations for local districts, Samangan and the surrounding provinces.


2003 Market prices


2004 Market prices

MARKET PRICES

No significant price change has shown. Sarqia Afghania households rely on Aybak market for food and non-food items, 50% of households purchase wheat. Wheat prices have been stable over the past year and impact daily labour rates since many workers are paid wheat for work. When prices decrease, while labour rates increase, it becomes more profitable to work for wheat compared to growing own crop. As shown on the graph to the left, wheat and green tea prices have been stable this year. However, daily labour rates increased from March 2003 reaching a peak of 200 Af's per day in June. Rates then began decreasing in November. The same trends held for both rice and mutton. Rice reached a peak of 220 Af's per Kg from January, June and November 2003 and January 2004. Mutton prices reached a maximum price of 150 Af's in January, March and November 2003.

Mutton and rice increases directly impacts village food security since these are staple food items. Households also purchase vegetable items (potatoes, spring onions, okra and carrots) from Aybak market: prices have remained steady. There are seasonal shortages of some vegetables, though this does not seem to impact vegetable prices nor is demand increased during off-season. Households simply purchase what is available at that time in the market.

LIVESTOCK

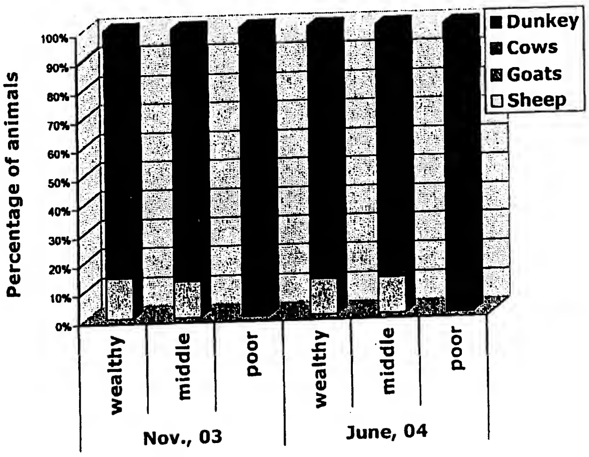
The availability of adequate supply of water for human, livestock consumption, and for crops is a major recurring problem for most households. Livestock, particularly cattle rearing, traditionally holds a major economic and social place in the region as it provides 25% of households' primary income sources. However, animal numbers fluctuate widely from one year to another as most people tend to invest their savings in livestock during good years while the sale of animals acts as a cushion during the years of poor harvest. A previous study in March, 2002 showed that livestock populations in Afghanistan have declined by 60%, while in Samangan it has been estimated to be 80% averaged losses of all animal stocks. With calving and lambing rates ranged between 30 to 80%, the number of animals is slowly climbing, but is still not close to the pre-drought figures.

As shown the table on the right, even though in many parts of Samangan, livestock has been hit hard by the destruction of grazing land caused by drought and locust damage. In Sarqia Afghania both the percents of households owning livestock (cows) and average number of livestock (sheep, goats, cows and donkeys) per household has increased in 2004 comparing to 2003.

	% households owning livestock		**Average number of livestock**	
	Nov 2003	**June 2004**	**Nov 2003**	**June 2004**
Sheep	**10**	**10**	**18**	**42**
Goats	**15**	**10**	**10**	**11**
Cows	**25**	**45**	**45**	**2**
Donkeys	**80**	**75**	**75**	**2**

Livestock ownership is a source of income for 45% households in the area. Of these households, mostly 15% were from "wealthy" and 15% from "poor" households, and 15% were from "middle" income households.

Percentage of households with livestock by wealth groups in 2003 and 2004



As indicated the graph on the right the only percentage of households that owned cows has increased in 2004 in comparison with 2003. More new households (33%) of wealthy, (20%) of the middle and (15%) of poor households had own cows in 2004. In contrast, 20% of middle households and 9% of poor households owned less goats and donkeys in 2004.

Reflecting the poor quality of pastures which were seriously affected by both locust and poor rainfall in many parts of the area; animals are in poor condition. As early in January 2004, some households started selling two live goats and 2 sheep, and two sheep were killed in order to avoid losses. Livestock does need to be replenished through longer-term breeding programmes, credit initiatives, and loans or other schemes; that will allow the farmer access to funds to purchase new animals.

Livestock disease

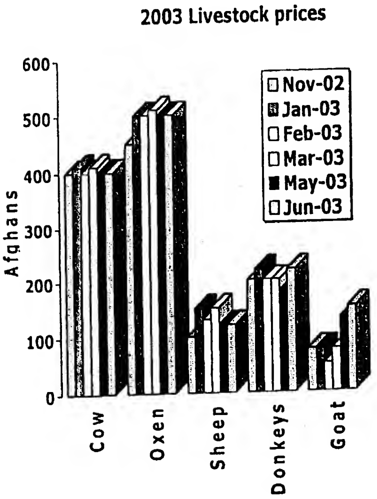
When asked about prevalence of livestock diseases, the male village leaders noted that their sheep and goats were affected by Sheep Pox and their cattle had Foot and Mouth Disease.

In 2003, 25 heads of cattle were owned in Sarqia Afghania and 100% were said to be infected foot and mouth disease. With 2004 results, the total number of cattle was 40 heads and 5% of the 40 heads were infected with Food and Mouth disease. However, both results had no cattle with the disease and no households offered evidence that any animals had died with the disease. Foot and mouth can not be ruled out in Hazrat Sultan district since this has been a problem in the past, but more evidence is required to support the claim that this disease is still a problem.

There are a total of 340 sheep and goats owned in Sarqia Afghania in 2003, with 140 (41%) reported affected by Sheep Pox, in contrast 2004 result show that the number of goats and sheep have decreased to 200 heads with 12 heads(6%) and were said to be infected with Enterotoxaemia disease. No vaccination clinics have occurred in the last six months, though a veterinary clinic and hospital exists in Aybak city. Medicines are not available provincially to treat the condition, and vaccination is the most effective way to prevent animal losses.

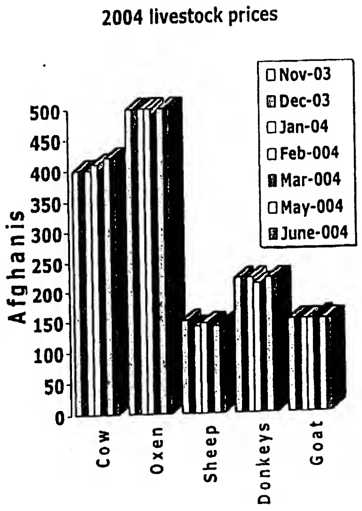
Livestock Prices

No livestock price change has shown. Sarqia Afghania and surrounding villages rely on the Aybak city market livestock sales and purchase.



As seen on the left and right, both qaraqal sheep and cow prices remained stable from November 2002 until January 2004. However, oxen prices increased between February and January 2004. Goat prices were stable at approximately $150, with seasonal variation.

Donkeys are considered the second most important animal to own, and prices tended to remain stable around $220, though some seasonal variation existed.



Grazing land and Access to Water

Sarqia Afghania and surrounding area environment is relatively hostile and fragile, and market by the scarcity of water resources. The climatic constraints are severe, and continued reduction in rainfall from one year to the next. According to village leaders, access to grazing land has been decreased in the last six months prior to the survey. Grassland productivity has been similar to previous years, while access to water has decreased this year. However, water shortages between 1999 and 2002 did play a role in subsequent animal losses. Unfortunately, local authorities were not able to use changes in grassland and water access to predict future threats to livestock. Increased awareness of threats to grazing land access might have allowed communities to protect themselves better against drought related animal losses. In addition, common grazing land is sometimes compromised by illegal cultivation of rainfed wheat. This practice can also compromises community animal stocks.

RISKS TO LIVES –SARQIA AFGHANIA

The risk to lives section of this report highlights areas in the country where individuals are more at risk of dying and understanding the reasons behind this increased risk. It particularly focuses on better understanding the links between nutritional risk, food insecurity and mortality.

MORTALITY INDICATORS:

The current crude mortality rate (CMR) of (0.4) is not above the previous round data (0.5) in November, 2003. The current rate of 0.4 is not above the emergency threshold rate of 1.0 deaths/10,000 people per day and normal developing country level of 0.5 deaths/10,000 people per day. Furthermore, children under five years of age mortality rate of 1 does compare favourably with the stable developing rate of 1.0 deaths/10,000 people per day and the emergency threshold rate of 2.0 deaths/10,000 people per day.

Because of the high rate of maternal and child mortality in Afghanistan, this study also looked at the number of children who had a skilled birth attendant present at delivery as a proxy for risk to lives of both the mothers giving birth and the new infants. Of the number of children born in the last six months, the percentage of births attended by a skilled birth attendant is 6% against 20% in November, 2003. This seems to be not acceptable percentage in this village. This figure, however, is not likely to include stillbirths or children who died during the last four months as a result of the difficulty of obtaining such information.

RISKS TO LIVES INDICATORS	Nov. 2003 (%)	June 2004 (%)	Change (%)
Mortality Indicators			
Crude mortality in last 4/6 months (Deaths / 10, 000 / day)	0.5	0.4	0.1
Under 5 mortality in last 4/6 months (Deaths / 10, 000 / day)	0.5	1	0.5
Births in last 4 months attended by a Skilled Birth Attendant (n=8)	20	6	14
Morbidity Indicators			
Children < 5 years with watery diarrhoea (n=25)	20	39	19
Children < 5 years with bloody diarrhoea (n=25)	27	6	21
Children < 5 with ARI (n=25)	33.3	33.3	0
Children between 6 and 59 months with measles vaccination (n=21)	73	88	15
Child Anthropometric Status (WFH % of median and MUAC)			
Children with global acute malnutrition (Oedema/Severe/Moderate) (n=42) (n=26)	25	6.3	18.7
Children > 6 months and <59 months with Oedema (n=21)	8.3	6.3	2
Children > 6 and <59 months with severe acute malnutrition (n=21)	0	0	0
Children > 6 and <59 months with moderate acute malnutrition (n=21)	8.3	0	8.3
Children > 1 year and <59 months with a MUAC under 13.5 cm (n=21)	8.3	6.3	2
Children > 1 year and <59 months with a MUAC under 12 cm (n=21)	0	0	0
Adult Women Anthropometric Status			
Reproductive age women (15-49 years) with a MUAC < 23.0 cm (n=23)	31	25	6
Reproductive age women (15-49 years) with a MUAC < 21.0 cm (n=23)	4.0	0	4
Micronutrient Deficiencies			
Households with iodised salt (only includes households with salt) (n=20)	0	40	40
Households with salt	100	100	0

MORBIDITY INDICATORS:

The morbidity indicators included in the surveillance system are associated with a risk of mortality and are the primary causes of death for children under five in Afghanistan. The incidence of watery diarrhoea among children under five years of at 39% against 20% in November, 2003 survey is increasing *cause of concern*. The presence of bloody diarrhoea in 6% against 27 in November, 2003 (or a drop of 21%) of the children in the village indicates a serious concern. Many of the cases of diarrhoeal disease might be attributed to hygiene practices and a shortage of water. The percent of children under five suffering from Acute Respiratory Infections of 33% against 33% in November, 2003 still is serious concern. Measles vaccination coverage in Afghanistan is 95%, and MOH figures for the Aybak district report coverage to be 85%. Additionally, the measles vaccination coverage of 88% in this round of data is consistent with district figure.

CHILDREN NUTRITIONAL STATUS:

Current global acute malnutrition 8.3 % against 13.3% in November, 2003 or a drop of 5% is a positive result. Children with oedema are at an extremely high risk of dying and in this sample, however, no children were oedematous, in contrast 13.3% in November, 2003 round data. In Sarqia Afghania, no children were severely wasted. However, the percentage of children under five years of age with moderate wasting in this sample is 8.3 against zero % in November, 2003 or an increase of 8.3% which does require an urgent response.

Low MUAC measurements also indicate children at risk of mortality. The presence of 16.7 % against zero % in November, 2003 or an increase of 16.7 % of children with a MUAC lower than 13.5 cm between one to five years of age is a high cause for concern for the village. In this round data no children with a MUAC of less than 12.0 cm was reported, in contrast with 13.3 in November, 2003 result.

ADULT WOMEN NUTRITIONAL STATUS:

Low MUACs in reproductive-age women has been associated with high child and maternal mortality making it an important indicator for increased risks to adult women mortality. In Sharqia Afghania, 29% of women have a MUAC below 23.0 cm, in contrast 21% of women were reported having a MUAC below 23.0 cm in November, 2003 or an increase of 8%. The percentages (8.3) of women with a MUAC of less than 21.0 cm stay the same in both years. In addition 80% of women have reported breastfeeding problem.

MICRONUTRIENT DEFICIENCIES:

The presence of iodised salt in the house is a proxy for the use of it and also therefore of iodine deficiency. 22 % of households had iodised salt in this round of data, in comparison, no households had iodised salt as all salt was locally mined block salt during the survey. However, the iodised salt is available in the local market and there is a factory that produces iodised salt in Ghol mahalah, Sheberghan City, Jowzjan province.

HEALTH FACILITIES:

The table below lists the health services or facilities that are available to the people in Sarqia Afghania area. However, there are no health facilities in Sarqia Afghania itself and all the residents of the neighbouring villages travel to Aybak City (Provincial Capital City) to use Aybak City's health services. Aybak City has one main Hospital an NGO's comprehensive health centres and number of private doctors. People travel there with public transportation; the cost of getting to Aybak from Sarqia Afghania is 140 Afs. In an urgent situation, people hire taxi, the cost of which (round trip including a waiting period) is 500-600 Afs.

In Sarqia Afghania itself, there are a number of traditional birth attendants (TBA) to help the village women with birth deliveries. The birth attendant usually comes to the woman's house for services. The common custom of TBA in this village and the surrounding areas is that there are no fixed charges for the TBA services and, as such, every household pays what they are able to afford and in accordance to their class in the community. The TBA fee ranges from 0 to 100 afs and can be in cash or kind. Many households in this village pay to their TBA services using food and no-food items.

All the Government health services in Aybak City are free of charge, and as a result they are used largely by low and middle income families. The wealthy class of Sarqia Afghania and the surrounding area goes to private doctors which charge 40Afs for a visit. Many people believe that the services of a private doctor are better than those of the government and if one is able to afford 40 Afs he/she should go to the private doctor. Medicine needs to be paid for in both cases. There are also skilled birth attendants in Aybak City hospitals and additionally there is a private service that people may use in the case of severe emergencies or complications. This type of private service is very expensive. Travel to Aybak is possible in all seasons, including winter,

Health Facilities Table

	Location of facility	Time taken to reach facility	Cost of getting to the facility (Afs)	Access to facility	Facility Accessible in winter and Spring
Health posts	Aybak	Less than hour	500-600	Every body	Same
Basic Health Centre	Aybak	Less than hour	500-600	Every body	Same
Comprehensive Health Centre	Aybak	Less than hour	500-600	Everyone	Same
Hospital	Aybak	Less than hour	500-600	Every body	Same
Traditional healers/Birth Attendants	Sarqia Afghania	Less than five minutes	0	Women only	Same
Skilled birth attendant	Aybak	Less than hour	500-600	Everybody	Same
Private doctor	Aybak		500-600	Everyone	Same

The use of health facilities has stayed constant in the last four months.

WATER SOURCES:

The people of Sarqia Afghania obtain water for household use from a river, pool and spring. The primary source of drinking and household general consumption is Samangan River that runs through Aybak to Khulm. Men will spend between two to three hours fetching water from the river with donkeys. Households usually go down to the river twice a week. Households without male member rely on women and sons to get the water from the river on daily basis or from the nearby spring or pool. The local spring which is two to three hours away, are managed by village elders (Shura). Elderly shura members rotate on daily basis and oversee the amount of water taken for each household. The water quantity of river, pool and spring stay same as last year.

The number one priority for the village is to get more access to clean drinking water through the construction of more hand pumps or deep wells.

SANITATION FACILITIES:

There are two common types of toilets in the Sarqia Afghania households. Open area and vault latrine. The majority of households use the open area as they can not afford to build vault latrine in their houses. The vault latrine is usually located in public places like schools and mosques and is always separate for men and women.

Drinking Water Source Table

(Source listed in order of use)	Time taken for water collection	Quality change since last year	Quantity change since last year
River	Two to three hours	Same	Same
Pool	30 minutes	Same	Same
Spring	Two to three hours	Same	Same

CONCLUSION: RISKS TO LIVES

The crude mortality rate is above both the emergency threshold rate of deaths people per day and the normal developing country level of deaths per day. Furthermore, for children under 5 years of age, the mortality rate does not compare favorably with the stable developing country rate and is above the emergency threshold rate of deaths per day.

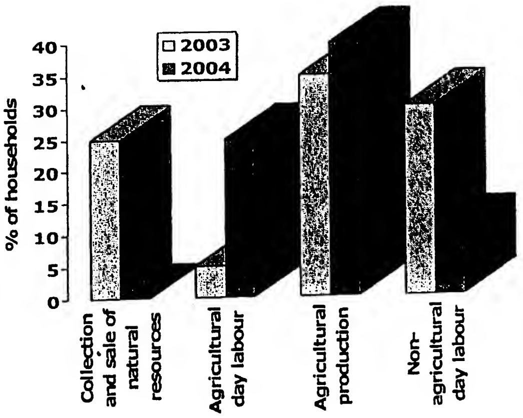
In Sharqia Afghania, water and sanitation were completely inadequate. Presumably, the rates of water diarrhea can be attributed to these two factors. This should be improved as rapidly as possible. Adequate preventative and curative health facilities and services should be available and accessible to the village community. A mass measles vaccination campaign is also needed in this village. Measles vaccination coverage is poor and is probably not interrupting measles virus transmission. Moreover, community training in public health is essential as introducing the community to toilets and other sanitation programmes that will improve the condition of Sharqia Afgh'ania's health problem.

LIVELIHOOD SECURITY – SHARQIA AFGHANIA

Livelihood Strategies:

The primary income source of most households in Chochman during the survey period were agricultural crop production, none-agricultural day labour agricultural day labour and collection and sale of natural resources,

As shown in the graph on the right, there are changes in the primary income source in relation with seasonality. The percentage of households that were engaged in crop production and agricultural day labour has increased from 35% to 40% and from 5% to 25% in 2004 respectively. In contrast, non-agricultural day labour and collection and sale of natural resource have reduced from 30% to 10% and from 25% to no households in 2004 respectively.


Primary source of income for households

The table below captures the percentage of households engaged in different activities. This provides an indication of the relative importance of different livelihood strategies to the community. With regard to seasonality changes, with exception of those engaged in agricultural day labour, spinning/carpet labour and the gift/gleaning income the rest of activities the percentage of households who were engaged in 2003 have increased in 2004.

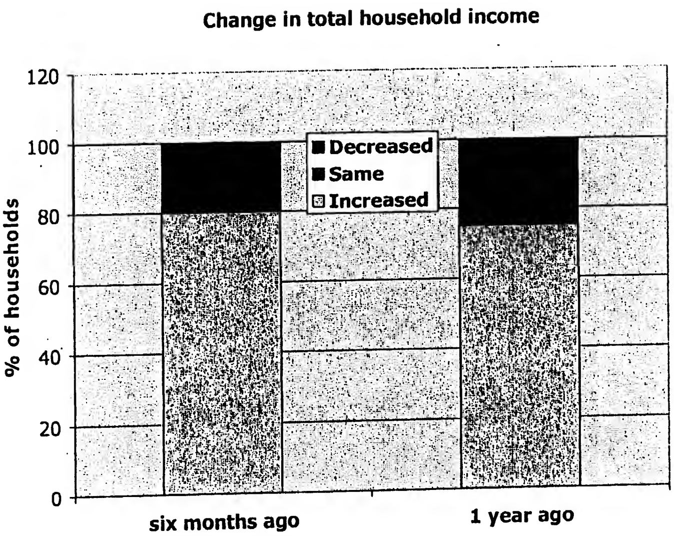
N=20 Households	**Percentage of households with Income Source**		**Percentage of households with Women's Income Source**	
	2003	**2004**	**2003**	**2004**
Spinning/ carpets labour	0	0	5	5
Agricultural day labour	75	65	0	80
Agricultural livestock	25	45	15	10
Take a loan	30	55	0	70
Agricultural crops	80	100	0	30
Non-agriculture day labour	0	65	0	55
Collection–natural resources	25	70	5	5
Gifts/Gleaning	10	0	5	5

Data regarding women's income activities can clarify the role of women in current livelihoods strategies and identify potential for future involvement. In 2003 women's income activities were only carpets, agricultural livestock and collection and sale of natural resource. However, in 2004, agricultural day labour and non-agricultural labour and raising livestock were popular income sources for "poor" and "middle" income women households. However, less (5%) of women were engaged livestock production in 2004. Interestingly, women tended to see activities associated with men as less important. However, all women received money from gifts/gleaning, yet men of all wealth groups did not consider these a source of income. Female headed households were very poor. The main problem is illiteracy, unemployment, poor infrastructure, lack of resources. A number of widows have received wool material from GOAL for making gillams and carpets

LIVELIHOOD SHOCKS:

GENERAL LIVELIHOOD SHOCKS or CONSTRAINTS:

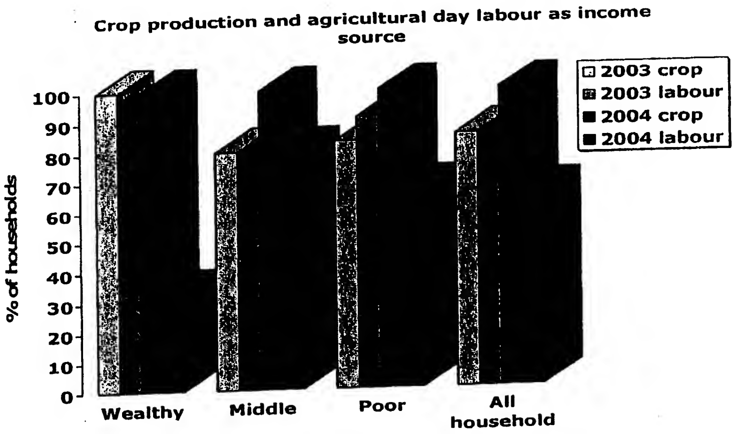
The graph on the right shows that 5% of the households' income , has increased for the last six months to compare year ago. In the previous year, 20% of households' incomes stayed the same, and in contrast 10% of households' income stayed the same for the past six months. Income increases followed the same trend: More (80%) households reported an income increase in the last six months compared to 75% in the previous year. Furthermore, 10% of households reported income decrease in the last six month to compare 20% of year ago. Households with steady incomes did not share similar livelihoods, thus it does not appear that a specific shock is responsible. Instead, this might be normal variation.



Crop production and agricultural daily labour:

Agricultural labour throughout the year brings in a wage of between 75 to 200 afs per day, but during the harvest, instead of a daily wage in cash, people are paid in wheat or barley. Crop production and daily labour were the main sources of income and have a major impact on the livelihood of the "poor" Sarqia Afghania households.

The graph on the right demonstrates the percentage of households of all wealth groups engaged crop production and agriculture labour. More (20%) of new middle and (17%) poor households were engaged in crop production in 2004 than 2003. In 2004, more (20%) of new middle household were generating income form labour, in contrast less (17%) of poor households were engaged agricultural day labour.



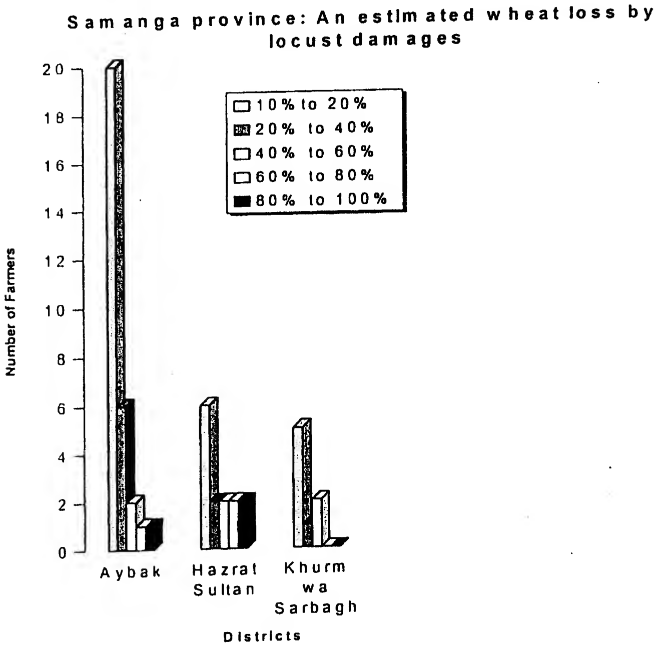
COLLECTION AND SALE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

In 2003, 5 households of 2 from the middle and 3 from the poor were involved in the collection and sale of natural resources. In contras, in 2004 14 households of (1) from "wealthy", (3) "middle" and (10) "poor" income households have collected and sold natural resources. All (14) households collected and sold bushes, asafo and animal manure. Furthermore, the data shows that two 'poor" households collected and sold Cumi. Livelihood activities were negatively impacted by recent drought. Lack of rain meant that bushes did not grow as well, and fewer animals led to a reduced amount of dung available for collection. The future availability of these resources did not appear to be compromised since animal stocks would be replenished, and bushes are cut above the root system so that they would grow again after the rains. Despite the drought, bush prices have remained stable, but fewer households collect this resource as market rates for day labour are more profitable for households.

Assessment of crop losses

In Sarqia Afghania 50% of households reported 20-50% of crop losses. None of the households reported more than 20-50% crop losses.

Samangan province experienced irregular rainfall and locust attacks but according the (GOAL locust impact assessment) survey data locust invasions have had little effect on the crops this year (2004) in comparison with 2003 and 2002.



As shown on the graph to the left, 34.4% of the total farmers (90 farmers) claimed losses of 10% to 20%, whereas 10% claimed losses of 20% to 40%, 6.7% claimed losses of 40% to 60% and 3% reported losses of 60% to 80% and 80% to 100% respectively by locusts.

Locust invasions occurred in most districts of the province from March onwards, continuously almost until harvest time. The output or wheat yield was reduced substantially following the attacks and poor rainfall, particularly in Aybak and Hazrat Sultan.

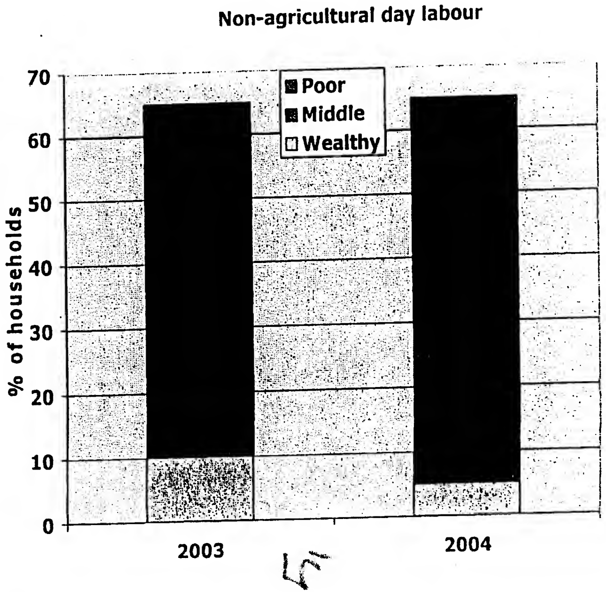
LIVESTOCK:

Grazing land also sustained quite serious damage following the locust invasion. At the moment, there is hardly any pasture in the province and the cattle are beginning to lose weight. In consequence, distress sales together with low demands may lead to low cattle prices.

Non-Agricultural Labour (skilled and unskilled manual labour)

In Sarqia Afghania, 65% of man and 55% of women households claimed manual labour as an income sources in 2004 against only 40% of man households in 2003. Of these households (5) were from the poor, (4) from the middle and (2) was from the wealthy households. On the same line the 60% of the women households who claimed manual labour as an income source in 2004, 35% were from poor female households and 20% of middle and 5% of wealth income households.

As the graph to the right demonstrates 40% of poor households were engaged in non-agricultural labour for both in 2003 and 2004. Less wealthy household was engage in non-agricultural day labour in 2004 than in 2003. In contrast more (5%) of middle income households were engaged in crop production relative to 2003.



OTHER INCOME SOURCES

The only other main income sources in Sarqia Afghania were loans. Loans were a major source of income for 30% of the households. Most (25%) households with loans were" poor" and (5%) were from the wealthy households.

Coping strategies

The coping strategies included here are by no means inclusive of all strategies invoked by households to survive tough times; instead, it focuses on behaviours predictive of declining livelihood and food security in Afghanistan that can be easily measured.
The list was divided into erosive and non-erosive coping strategies in order to understand impacts on households' future livelihood security. The division is not mutually exclusive as the loss of a bicycle, motorcycle or car may also impact future opportunities. Similarly, the order of the list does not reflect a continuum of behaviour. The coping strategies listed are meant to be general indicators of a worsening situation, however, households experiencing chronic and transitory poverty who engage in these activities on a regular basis.

	2003 (%)	2004 (%)
Sold Carpet / Gilims from the house	10	5
Household members worked more hours to make daily expenses	30	35
Households who borrowed food from relatives to make a meal	60	70
Households who had been consuming dried bread	5	5
Household took out loan	30	70
Household who took food on credit from shop	80	70

None Erosive coping strageries

In order to meet their expenses, 5% households sold non-productive assets such as gillams, carpets in 2004. Less than half (35%) of households have engaged in longer hours of work. Food consumption patterns and sources of food are also key indicators of household vulnerability. 5% of the families interviewed had been eating dried bread both in 2003 and 2004. This clearly highlights a situation of food insecurity. In addition to changes in food consumption, most of the families needed external support to food needs. 70% families had to borrow food from their relatives in order to make a meal in the last six months and the data shows 10% increase in 2004.

Erosive and distress coping strategies

It is apparent that strategies adapted by households to deal with shocks varied with individuals, households and villages. In Sarqia Afghania, 70% of households took loans as a coping strategy, whereas 30% took loan as coping strategy to meet daily expenses in 2003, or an increase of 40%. In the same way, up to 80% of the households took food on credit in 2003, whereas 700% took food on credit from local shops in 2004 with a drop of 10%. It is apparent that both "poor" and "middle" households are extremely vulnerable as they jeopardize future production capacity to cover immediate needs.

Income Diversity and Capacity to Cope – Risk to Livelihoods

	Average Income Diversity Score	
	2003	**2004**
Wealth	3.3	3.7
Middle	3.0	4.6
Poor	3.4	5.1
All households	3.3	4.8

Household capacity to absorb shocks and to adapt stresses induced by climate, price instability, unemployment and complex emergencies such as political crisis. However, households with various income sources are better able to cope than households who rely on one or two income sources. The income diversity score is simply a count of the number of income sources for each household. In Sarqia Afghania, households had an average income diversity score of 3.3 in 2003, whereas the score have increased to 4.8. In many cases the wealthier household often scores higher income diversity measures, however, in this situation both the poor and middle income households have higher diversity score comparing to wealthy households. All wealth groups' diversity score have slightly increased in 2004. The main sources of income in Sarqia Afghania were crop production, agricultural day labour, livestock production, collection and sale of natural resources and non-agricultural day labour.

National Surveillance System (NSS)
Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan
Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation & Development, Ministry of Agriculture & Animal Husbandry & Ministry of Health

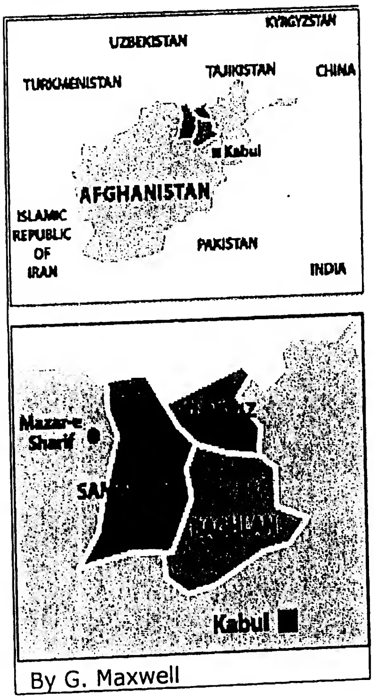
Samangan
Surveillance
Unit

Hazrat Sultan
District

Nawabad
Qaracha Bolaq
Sentinel site

Summer 2004

SUMMARY FINDINGS FOR Nawabad Qaracha Bolaq SENTINEL SITE IN EASTHERN HAZRAT SULTAN DISTRICT (These findings are based on field survey of 20 households and village leaders interview. These findings should not be assumed to representative of other parts of Afghanistan)



By G. Maxwell

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Food Security

- Crop production has fallen considerably 2004 compared to the 2003 crop season. The 2003, harvest reported to be a normal harvest year with farmers averaging from 1 to 1.9 tons per hectare. This year with poor rainfall at the beginning and at the end of the cycle and locust damage, average wheat yield were between 500 to 900 kg/hectare. On the same line, the average land accessed by all households has increased from 727 jiribs of land to 784 jiribs of land in 2004.
- More households felt they were not able to buy/cultivate enough food six months prior to the survey compared to 2003. With same trend, 5% of the households worried where there food was coming from at the time of the survey. The data shows that all households were eating protein rich foods (meat, milk, eggs and pulse) at least once a month to once a week to complement cereals (wheat and barley). However, the data indicates a slightly increase on most food group consumption in 2004 and this could well be a seasonal change.

Risk to Lives

- The crude mortality rate is not above both the emergency threshold rate of deaths people per day and the normal developing country level of deaths people per day. Furthermore, for children under 5 years of age, the mortality rate does compare favorably with the stable developing country rate. This is less than the emergency threshold rate of deaths people per day. Acute malnutrition is a very common problem currently effecting children less than five years of age in Nawbad Qaracha Bolaq village and the surrounding villages.

Livelihood Security

- In 2003 women's income activities were only carpets, and collection and sale of natural resource. However, in 2004, agricultural day labour, and non-agricultural labour, and raising livestock were popular income sources for "poor" and "middle" income women households.

What is the NSS?

The National Surveillance System monitors trends in key indicators in order to predict early signs of change and deterioration in livelihoods, food security and nutrition. In conjunction with other complementary data collection systems, the NSS provides relevant data for prioritizing limited resources and designing programs.

Methodology

The NSS is based on a sentinel site system, in which provincial level ministries follow a rotating cohort of households' overtime. Sites are selected so that they mirror the majority of the communities with respect to agro-ecological features, economic activities, available services and people in a given area (livelihood / agro-ecological zone). Because of the diversity of livelihoods in Afghanistan, even in rural areas, information from the sentinel may not be representative of every village in the zone. However, it is likely, that the data from one sentinel site can signal concern for other villages in the same zone (See Annex I for detailed information on methodology).

FOOD SECURITY –NAW ABAD QARACHUBALAQ

CROP PRODUCTION

The Samangan province has great potential for growing mostly temperate fruit crops and various tropical spices, as well as, a wide variety of cereal crops including: wheat, rice and barley. Nevertheless, natural hazards (drought, locust invasions) combined with old-fashion farming practices limit the production. Rural and semi-rural areas in Afghanistan remain highly dependant on subsistence agriculture for households' consumption. As a result, the reduction of the harvest will affect seasonal agricultural labour patterns in rural areas. Thus, reducing labour and income opportunities by placing greater economic strains on households that would eventually force them to purchase wheat at higher prices. This does not include amount of seeds that households will keep for planting in the next growing season.

Area planted

	All households		Wealthy		Middle		Poor	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
% owning rainfed land	75	80	100	100	75	100	69	18
average jiribs accessed land	727	784	287	349	180	179	260	256

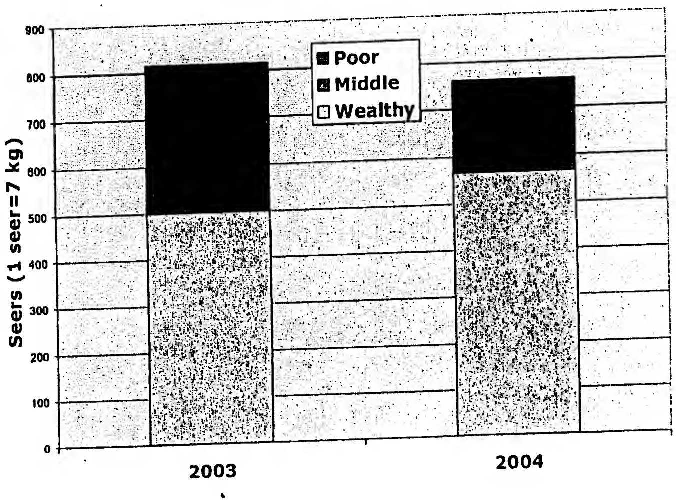
Land access and ownership is the key prerequisite for agricultural production.
As shown in the table on the right, the data gathered shows that cultivated land varied from season to season and year to year. On the same line, the average land accessed by all households has been increased from 727 jiribs of land to 784 jiribs of land in 2004. With the same trend, the percentage of households owning rainfed land has increased by 5%. The "wealthy" household average access jiribs increased from 287 jiribs to 349 in 2004. In contrast, both the middle and poor household average access land has decreased from 180 to 179 of jiribs and from 260 to 256 in 2004 respectively. The data clearly indicates that land ownership is a key characteristic of wealth differentiation in the community. Though draft oxen are extremely important to household crop production, none of the households owned oxen.

Wheat Production (Yield)

Agricultural production is the most important source of income with 80% of households engaging crop production. As some of the households do not own land, instead some were sharecroppers. The amount of yield kept by households can differ from the actual harvest.

The graph on the right, presents the average amount of yield retained from rainfed land by households in 2003 and 2004. It is disaggregated by wealth to understand relative differences in food availability by socio-economic groups. The "wealthy" average wheat yield is estimated at 566 Seers against 500 Seers in 2003 with an increase of 12%. Middle household wheat yield totaled 125 Seers against 250 Seers in 2003 with a drop of 50%. However, poor household wheat yield is estimated 70 Seers against 65 Seers in 2003 with an increase of 7%. In addition, the average amount of yield kept from the irrigated land by the households was 180 seers, 50 seers and 72 seers for the wealthy, middle and poor households respectively. However, this graph does not necessarily represent the food security.

Average yield kept by wealth groups in 2003 and 2004



ASSESSMENT OF CROP LOSSES

Crop production has fallen considerably this year compared to the 2003 crop season. The 2003 harvest was reported to be a normal harvest year with farmers averaging from 1 to 1.9 tons per hectare. This year with poor rainfall at the beginning and at the end of the cycle, averaged wheat yield between 500 to 900 kg/hectare. During this crop season the situation was exacerbated by locusts, smut diseases, and Sunn pest. They destroyed wheat in several districts in Samangan province. Overall losses due to locust damage in rainfed areas have been estimated at 20% in the Samangan provinces. In contrast, the overall losses by locust and drought damage in irrigated land have been estimated to be 23% in Samangan (GOAL-Locust impact assessment report 2004).

FOOD SECURITY PERCEPTION

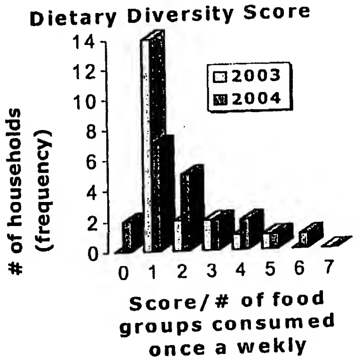
In November 2003, 60% of households felt they were not able to buy/cultivate enough food six months prior to the survey. Of these households they were all from the poor income households. In contrast, June 2004, more (5%) households felt they were not able to buy/cultivate enough food six months prior to the survey. With same trend, 5% of the households worried where there food was coming from at the time of the survey. Nonetheless, Enumerators observed that both in 2003 and 2004 that 70% of households did not appear to have enough food to survive for the season. None of the interviewed households thought the food security would get worse over the next six months, though many expressed uncertainty about how they could predict changes in food security in their home.

PERCEPTION OF FOOD SECURITY INDICATORS	**2003 (%)**	**2004 (%)**	**Change (%)**
Consider food situation to be **worse** in comparison to 4/6 months ago	0	0	0
Consider food situation to be **worse** than one year ago	0	0	0
Considered food situation not to be sufficient at time of survey	60	65	5
Worried where their food was coming at the time of survey	5	0	5
Expect the food situation to be **worse** in the next 4/6 months	0	0	0
Enumerators thought households did not have enough food for the next 4/6 months	70	70	0

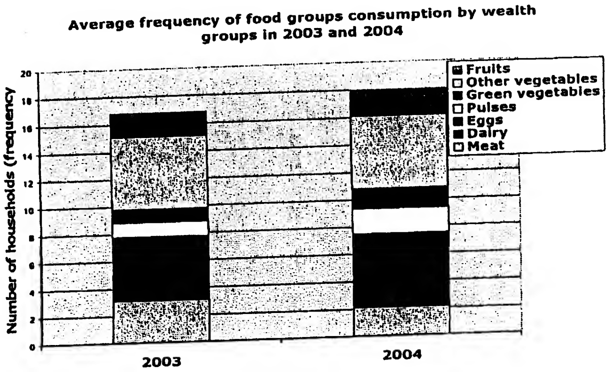
DIETARY DIVERSITY - DIET QUALITY

Household dietary diversity scores are summarized in the graph on the right. *The diversity score is calculated by attributing a score of "1" to each food group that has eaten at least once week by a household. Households with a higher diversity score have a more diverse diet.* Surveys repeated throughout the country indicate that most households consume cereals or grains on a daily basis and thus, cereals were not included in the diet diversity score. On average all households combined had a dietary diversity score of 1.7 against 2.1 in 2003 with an increase of 0.5 dietary diversity score in 2004.

The histogram on the right shows that in 2004, most households (7 and 5 households) scored "1" and " 2' respectively. In contrast, in 2003, most (14) households scored "1". Furthermore, in both years, no households scored "7". Diversity scores are relatively or slightly different between wealth groups. "Wealthy" groups scored of 5 against 3.2 in 2003 whereas "middle" score 2.8 against 1.8 in 2003 and poor wealth group scored 1.4 against 1.2 in 2003. These results suggest that wealthy households either have the means to buy more expensive foods or, do acquire a preference for a more diverse diet.



The graph on the right reflects the average frequency of consumption for food. The data shows that all households are eating protein rich foods (meat, milk, eggs and pulse) at least once a month to once a week to complement cereals (wheat and barley). However, the data indicates a slightly increase on most food group consumption in 2004 and this could well be a seasonal change.



The average frequency meat consumption by households has decreased from 3 to 2.1 in 2004. With same trend both dairy product and eggs were increased from 1.8 to 2.8 and from 5.3 to 1.1 respectively. Furthermore, household green vegetables, pulses and other vegetables average frequency consumption, shows a slight decrease in 2004. However this data does not allow inferences regarding protein sufficiency.

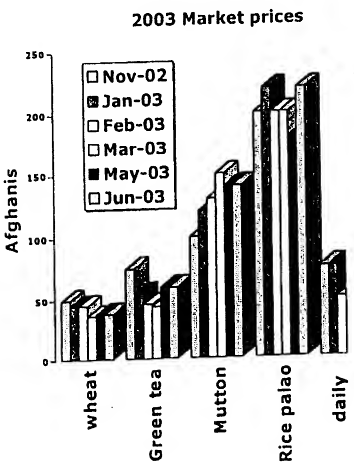
As the data regarding quantities and consumption practices were not collected, no inferences can be made regarding the adequacy of vitamin and mineral intakes. Nonetheless, this data suggests that the areas that need additional research include:

1. Vitamin A sufficiency (animal sources and beta-carotene from plant sources);
2. Calcium sufficiency (milk and water, most water is hard, sources), and;
3. Vitamin C sufficiency (fresh plant sources).

These concerns are based on the frequency of consumption reported by households and the limited availability of these foods compared to other items.

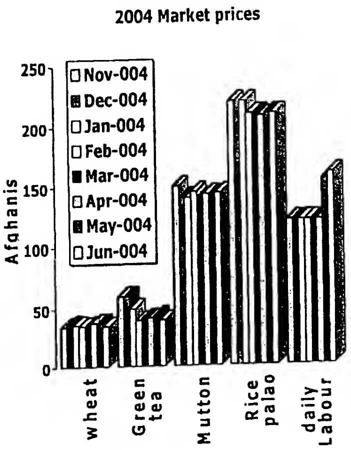
MARKET ACCESS

Aybak city is the closest food market to Nawabad Qaracha Bolaq, accessible by foot or vehicle (two hours by foot or donkey).The road built by GOAL is in relatively good condition. According to this survey, some travel by vehicle (150 Af's per trip) but the cost may vary according to the person's location in the village. Most Nawabad Qaracha Bolaq residents access Aybak market in order to trade wheat, livestock, and purchase food and non-food items. Market transactions are cash based and most households send one person to the market on market days (Mondays and Thursdays, weekly). The market is open year-round and is one of the most important trading for local districts, Samangan and the surrounding provinces.



MARKET PRICES

No significant price changes have shown when compared 2003 and 2004 market prices. Nawabad Qaracha Bolaq households rely on Aybak market for food and non-food items 60% of households purchase wheat. Wheat prices have been stable over the past year and impact daily labour rates, since many workers are paid wheat for work. When prices decrease, while labour rates increase, it becomes more profitable to work for wheat compared to growing own crop.



As shown on the graph to the left, wheat and green tea prices have been stable this year. However, daily labour rates increased from March 2003 reaching a peak of 200 Af's per day in June. Rates then began decreasing in November. The same trends held for both rice and mutton. Rice reached a peak of 220 Af's per Kg from January, June and November 2003 and January 2004. Mutton prices reached a maximum price of 150 Af's in January, March and November 2003.

Mutton and rice increases do directly impact village food security; since these are staple food items. Households also purchase vegetable items (potatoes, spring onions, okra and carrots) from Aybak market: prices have remained steady. There are seasonal shortages of some vegetables, though this does not seem to impact vegetable prices nor its demand to be increased during the off-season. Households simply purchase what is available at that time in the market.

LIVESTOCK

The availability of adequate supply of water for human, livestock consumption, and for crops is a major recurring problem for most households. Livestock, particularly cattle rearing, traditionally holds a major economic and social place in the region; as it provides 25% of households primary income source. However, animal numbers fluctuate widely from one year to another as most people tend to invest their savings in livestock during good years, while the sale of animals acts as a cushion during the years of poor harvest. A previous study in March, 2002 showed that livestock populations in Afghanistan have declined by 60%, while in Samangan it has been estimated to be 80% of average losses of all animal stock. With calving and lambing rates range between 30 to 80%, the number of animals is slowly climbing, but is still not close to the pre-drought figures.

As shown the table on the right, even though in many parts of Samangan the livestock has been hit hard by the destruction of grazing land, caused by drought and locust damage, in Nawabad Qaracha Bolaq the percent of household owning livestock (cows and goats) has increased in 2003, but average number of livestock (sheep, goats, cows and donkeys) per household has decreased in 2004 in comparison to 2003.

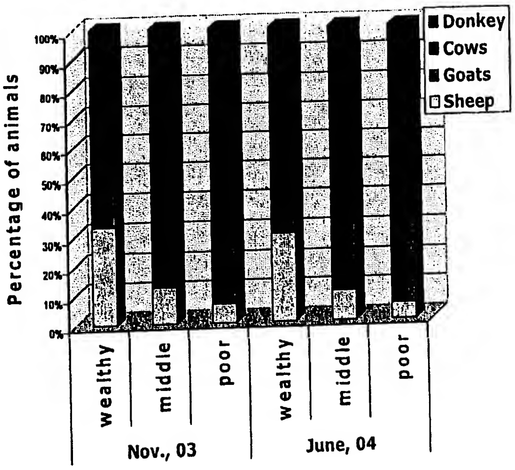
	% households owning livestock		Average number of livestock	
	Nov 2003	June 2004	Nov 2003	June 2004
Sheep	25	25	95	56
Goats	45	55	20	13
Cows	5	15	2	1.4
Donkeys	90	100	2	2

Livestock ownership is a source of income for 60% households in the area. Of these households, most 15% were from "wealthy" and 15% from "poor" households and 30% were from "middle" income households.

As indicated the graph on the right, in 2004 the percentage of households own animals have stayed very much the same as in 2003. However, more (16%) of new poor households own goats in 2004, whereas, 50% of new middle income households also own cows in 2004 in comparison with 2003. This is an indication of more middle and poor income households are perusing livestock as a new source of income in 2004 in comparison to 2003.

Reflecting the poor quality of pastures which were seriously affected by both locust and poor rainfall; in many parts of the area, animals are in poor condition. As early in January 2004, some households started selling 146 live sheep and 22 goats, 1 cow 33 sheep, and 59 goats were killed in the last six months in order to avoid losses. Livestock does need to be replenished through longer-term breeding programmes, credit initiatives, loans or other schemes that will allow the farmer access to funds to purchase new animals.

Percentage of households with livestock by wealth groups in 2003 and 2004



Livestock disease

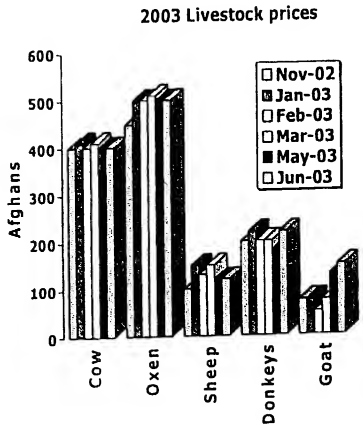
In 2003, there were a total of 3000 sheep and goats in Nawabad Qaracha Bolaq, with 3% were said to be infected by Sheep Pox. In contrast, 2004 with same number of sheep and goats 13% were said to be infected by Entertoxaemia.

There was total of 15 cattle owned in the village of Nawabad Qaracha Bolaq in 2003, with infection rate of 67%. In contrast, 2004 the number of the cattle owned increased to 31 with 50%, and were said to be infected by Foot and Mouth disease. However, both results no animal was observed with the disease and no household offered evidence that any animals had died with the disease. Foot and Mouth and Sheep Pox can not be ruled out in Hazrat Sultan district since this has been a problem in the past, but more evidence is required to support the claim that this disease is still a problem.

No vaccination clinics have occurred in the last six months, though a veterinary clinic and hospital exist in Aybak city. Medicines are not available provincially to treat the condition, and vaccination is the most effective way to prevent animal losses.

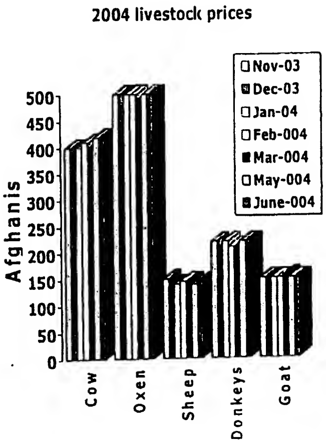
Livestock Prices

No livestock price changes have shown from the results. Nawabad Qaracha Bolaq and surrounding villages rely on the Aybak city market livestock sales and purchase.



As seen on the left and right, both qaraqal sheep and cow prices remained stable from November 2002 until January 2004. However, oxen prices increased between February and January 2004. Goat prices were stable at approximately $150, with seasonal variation.

Donkeys are considered the second most important animal to own, and prices tended to remain stable around $220, though some seasonal variation existed.



Grazing land and Access to Water

Nawabad Qaracha Bolaq and surrounding area environment is relatively hostile and a fragile, and market by the scarcity of water resources. The climatic constraints are severe, and continued to reduce in rainfall from one year to the next. According to village leaders, access to grazing land has been decreased in the last six months, prior to the survey. Grassland productivity has been similar to previous years, while access to water has decreased this year. However, water shortages between 1999 and 2002 did play a role in subsequent animal losses. Unfortunately, local authorities were not able to use changes in grassland and water access to predict future threats to livestock. Increased awareness of threats to grazing land access might have allowed communities to protect themselves better against drought related animal losses. In addition, it is common that grazing land is sometimes compromised by illegal cultivation of rainfed wheat. This practice can also compromises community animal stocks.

RISKS TO LIVES –NAW ABAD QARACHUBALAQ

The risk to lives section of this report highlights areas in the country where individuals are more at risk of dying and understanding the reasons behind this increased risk. . It particularly focuses on better understanding the links between nutritional risk, food insecurity and mortality.

MORTALITY INDICATORS:

The current crude mortality rate (CMR) of (0.4) is not above the previous round data (0.5) in November, 2003. The current rate of 0.4 is not above the emergency threshold rate of 1.0 deaths/10,000 people per day and normal developing country level of 0.5 deaths/10,000 people per day. Furthermore, children under five years of age mortality rate of 1 does compare favourably with the stable developing rate of 1.0 deaths/10,000 people per day and the emergency threshold rate of 2.0 deaths/10,000 people per day.

Because of the high rate of maternal and child mortality in Afghanistan, this study also looked at the number of children who had a skilled birth attendant present at delivery as a proxy for risk to lives of both the mothers giving birth and the new infants. Of the number of children born in the last six months, the percentage of births attended by a skilled birth attendant is 6% against 20% in November 2003. This seems to be not an acceptable percentage in this village. This figure, however, is not likely to include stillbirths or children who died during the last four months as a result of the difficulty of obtaining such information.

RISKS TO LIVES INDICATORS	Nov. 2003 (%)	June 2004 (%)	Change (%)
Mortality Indicators			
Crude mortality in last 4/6 months (Deaths / 10, 000 / day)	0.5	0.4	0.1
Under 5 mortality in last 4/6 months (Deaths / 10, 000 / day)	0.5	1	0.5
Births in last 4 months attended by a Skilled Birth Attendant (n=8)	20	6	14
Morbidity Indicators			
Children < 5 years with watery diarrhoea (n=25)	20	39	19
Children < 5 years with bloody diarrhoea (n=25)	27	6	21
Children < 5 with ARI (n=25)	33.3	33.3	0
Children between 6 and 59 months with measles vaccination (n=21)	73	88	15
Child Anthropometric Status (WFH % of median and MUAC)			
Children with global acute malnutrition (Oedema/Severe/Moderate) (n=42) (n=26)	25	6.3	18.7
Children > 6 months and <59 months with Oedema (n=21)	8.3	6.3	2
Children > 6 and <59 months with severe acute malnutrition (n=21)	0	0	0
Children > 6 and <59 months with moderate acute malnutrition (n=21)	8.3	0	8.3
Children > 1 year and <59 months with a MUAC under 13.5 cm (n=21)	8.3	6.3	2
Children > 1 year and <59 months with a MUAC under 12 cm (n=21)	0	0	0
Adult Women Anthropometric Status			
Reproductive age women (15-49 years) with a MUAC < 23.0 cm (n=23)	31	25	6
Reproductive age women (15-49 years) with a MUAC < 21.0 cm (n=23)	4.0	0	4
Micronutrient Deficiencies			
Households with iodised salt (only includes households with salt) (n=20)	0	40	40
Households with salt	100	100	0

MORBIDITY INDICATORS:
The morbidity indicators included in the surveillance system are associated with a risk of mortality and are the primary causes of death for children under five in Afghanistan. The incidence of watery diarrhoea among children under five years is at 39% against 20% in November 2003 survey is increasing *cause of concern.* The presence of bloody diarrhoea in 6% against 27% in November 2003 (or a drop of 21%) of the children in the village indicates less serious concern. Many of the cases of diarrhoeal disease might be attributed to hygiene practices and a shortage of water. The percentage of children under five years of age suffering from Acute Respiratory Infections is 33% against 33% in November 2003. This is still serious concern. Measles vaccination coverage in Afghanistan is 95%, and MOH figures for the Aybak district report coverage to be 85%. Additionally, the measles vaccination coverage of 88%, in this round of data, is consistent with district figure.

CHILDREN NUTRITIONAL STATUS:
Current global acute malnutrition of 6.3 % against 25% in November 2003 with a drop of 19% is a positive result. Children with oedema are at an extremely high risk of dying and in this sample. 6.3% of the children were oedematous, in contrast 8.3% in November 2003. In Nawabad Qaracha Bolaq, no children were severely wasted, and the percentage of children under five years of age were moderately wasted in this sample is zero against 8.3 % in November 2003 with a drop of 8.3% which does not require an urgent response.

Low MUAC measurements also indicate children at risk of mortality. The presence of 6.3 % against 8.3% in November, 2003 with a drop of 2 % of children with a MUAC lower than 13.5 cm between one to five years of age. This is still a high cause for concern for the village. In this round data, no children with a MUAC of less than 12.0 cm was reported.

ADULT WOMEN NUTRITIONAL STATUS:
Low MUACs in reproductive-age women has been associated with high child and maternal mortality making it an important indicator for increased risks to adult women mortality. In Naw abad Qarachubalaq 25% of women have a MUAC below 23.0 cm, in contrast 31% of women who were reported having a MUAC below 23.0 cm in November, 2003 with a drop of 6%. No woman with a MUAC of less than 21.0 cm was reported in this round of data, in contrast 4% was reported in November 2003. In addition, 50% of women in the village have reported having breastfeeding problems.

MICRONUTRIENT DEFICIENCIES:
The presence of iodised salt in the house is a proxy for its use and also for iodine deficiency. 40 % of households had iodised salt in this round of data. In comparison, none of the households had

iodised salt as all salt was locally mined block salt during the survey of 2003. However, the iodised salt is available in the local markets and there is a factory that produces iodised salt in Ghol mahalah, Sheberghan City, Jowzjan province.

HEALTH FACILITIES:
The table below lists the health services or facilities that are available to the people in Nawabad Qaracha Bolaq area. However, there are no health facilities in Nawabad qaracha bolaq itself and all the residents of the neighbouring villages travel to Aybak City (Provincial Capital City) to use its health services. Aybak City has one main hospital and comprehensive health centres and a number of private doctors. People travel there with public transportation, the cost of getting to Aybak city from Nawabad is 1000 Afs. In an urgent situation, people use taxi or tractor with a cost of 1500 Afs.

All the government health services in Aybak City are free of charge, and as a result they are used largely by poor and middle income families. The wealthy class of Nawbad Qarcha Bolaq and the surrounding area goes to private doctors who charge 40 Afs per visit. Many people believe that the services of a private doctor are better than those of the government. If one is able to afford 40 Afs he/she should go to the private doctor. Either way medicine needs to be paid for in both cases.

Health Facilities Table

	Location of facility	Time taken to reach facility	Cost of getting to the facility (Afs)	Access to facility	Facility Accessible in winter and Spring
	Aybak	1 to 2 hours	1000	Everybody	Yes
Health posts					
Basic Health Centre	Aybak	1 to 2 hours	1000	Everybody	Yes
Comprehensive Health Centre	Aybak	1 to 2 hours	1000	Everybody	Yes
Hospital	Aybak	1to 2hours	1000	Everybody	Yes
Traditional healers/Birth Attendants	Nawbad Qaracha Bolaq	Five minutes	1000	Women	Yes
Skilled birth attendant	Aybak	1 to 2 hours	1000	Women	Yes
Private doctor	Aybak	1 to 2 hours	1000	Everybody	Yes

The use of health facilities has stayed constant in the last four months.

WATER SOURCES:

In Nawabad qaracha bolaq, the public sources of water are; hand pumps and open wells. In addition to that, most households have wells in their houses. The majority of the village people prefer to get their drinking water from hand pumps rather than from the open wells (which are occasionally one used by animals). The people reported that both from the hand pumps and open wells that the quality and quantity of water available, has stayed the same in comparison with last year.

The number one priority for the village is to get more access to clean drinking water through the construction of more hand pumps or deep wells.

Drinking Water Source Table

(Source listed in order of use)	Time taken for water collection	Quality change since last year	Quantity change since last year
Hand pump	Less than hour	Same	Same
Open well	Less than hours	same	same

There are two common types of toilets in the Nawabad Qaracha Bolaq area: open area, and vault latrine. The majority of households have a vault latrine toilet in their houses. The vault latrine is usually located in public places like schools and mosques and is always separate for men and women. The very low income households of Nawabad Qaracha Bolaq who can not afford to build a latrine in their household, use an open area toilet.

CONCLUSION: RISKS TO LIVES

The crude mortality rate is not above both the emergency threshold rate of deaths per day and the normal developing country level of deaths people per day. Furthermore, for children under 5 years of age, the mortality rate does compare favorably with the stable developing country rate. This is less than the emergency threshold rate of deaths people per day. Acute malnutrition is a very common problem currently effecting children less than five years of age in Nawbad Qaracha Bolaq village and the surrounding villages.

In Nawbad Qaracha Bolaq, water and sanitation were completely inadequate. Presumably, the rates of water and blood diarrhea can be attributed to these two factors. Overall, most of children less than five years of age had had diarrhea diseases and acute respiratory infection in the period of the survey. This should be improved as rapidly as possible. In addition, adequate preventative and curative health facilities and services should be available and accessible to the village community.

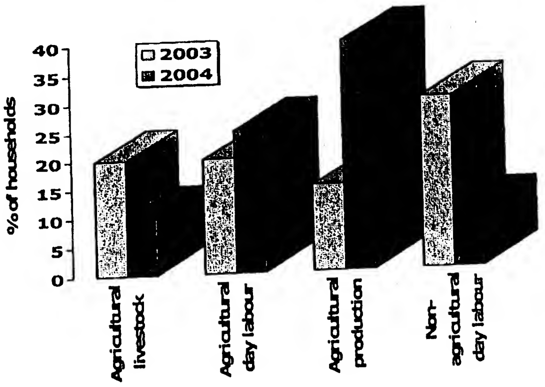
A mass measles vaccination campaign is also needed in this village. Measles vaccination coverage is poor and is probably not stopping measles virus transmission. Moreover, community training in public health is essential introducing the community to toilets and other sanitation programmes that will improve the condition of Nawbad Qaracha Bolaq's health problem.

LIVELIHOOD SECURITY – Nawabad Qaracha Bolaq

Livelihood Strategies:
The primary income sources of most households in Nawabad Qaracha Bolaq during the survey period were agricultural crop production, non-agricultural day labour, agricultural day labour trade and raising livestock.

As shown in the graph on the right, there are changes in the primary income source in relation with seasonality. The percentage of households that were engaged in crop production and agricultural day labour has increased from 15% to 40% and from 20% to 25% in 2004 respectively. In contrast, non-agricultural day labour and livestock production has reduced from 30% to 10% (a drop of 20%) and from 25% to 10% (a drop of 15%) households in 2004 respectively.

Primary source of income for households



The table below captures the percentage of households engaged in different activities. This provides an indication of the relative importance of different livelihood strategies to the community. With regard to seasonality changes, with exception of those engaged in agricultural day labour, non-agricultural day labour and spinning/carpet labour the rest of activities the percentage of households who were engaged in 2003 have been increased in 2004.

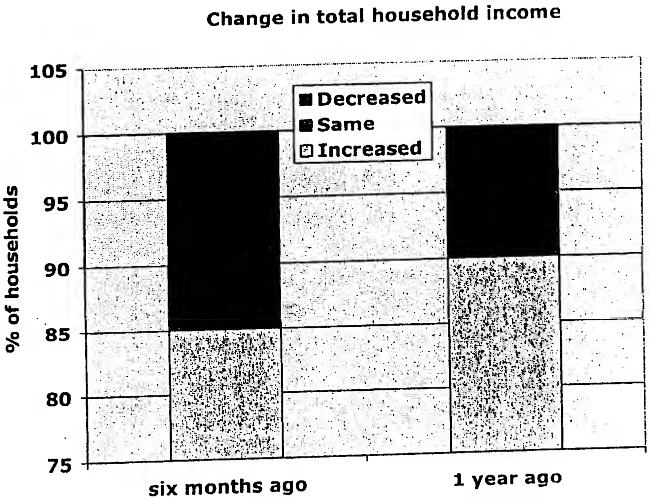
N=20 Households	**Percentage of households with Income Source**		**Percentage of households with Women's Income Source**	
	2003	**2004**	**2003**	**2004**
Spinning/ carpets labour	0	0	15	15
Agricultural day labour	65	35	0	85
Agricultural livestock	45	60	0	35
Take a loan	25	25	0	65
Agricultural crops	55	90	0	40
Non-agriculture day labour	60	45	0	60
Collection–natural resources	70	45	5	10
Gifts/Gleaning	0	5	5	5

Data regarding women's income activities can clarify the role of women in current livelihoods strategies. This identifies potential for future involvement. In 2003 women's income activities were only carpets, and collection and sale of natural resource. However, in 2004, agricultural day labour, and non-agricultural labour, and raising livestock were popular income sources for "poor" and "middle" income women households. Interestingly, women tended to see activities associated with men as less important. However, all women received money from gifts/gleaning, yet men of all wealth groups did not consider these a source of income. Female run households were very poor. The main problem is illiteracy, unemployment, poor infrastructure, and the lack of resources. A number of widows have received wool material from GOAL for making gillams and carpets

LIVELIHOOD SHOCKS:

GENERAL LIVELIHOOD SHOCKS or CONSTRAINTS:

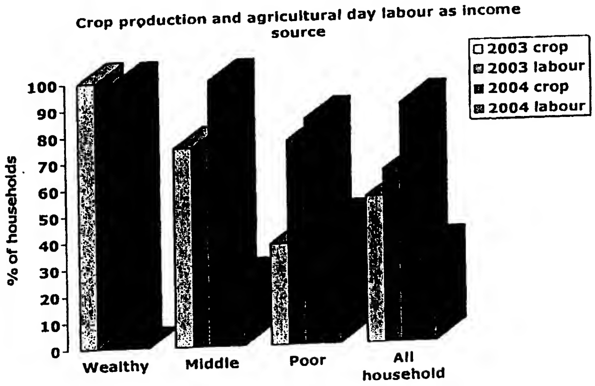
The graph on the right shows that 5% of the households' income has decreased from the last six months compared to a year ago. In the previous year, 5% of households' incomes stayed the same, and in contrast 10% of households' income stayed the same for the past six months. Income increases followed the same trend: Only 85% households reported an increase in the last six months compared to 90% in the previous year. Households with steady incomes did not share similar livelihoods, thus it does not appear that a specific shock is responsible. Instead, this might be normal variation.



Crop production and agricultural daily labour:

Agricultural labour throughout the year brings in a wage of between 75 to 200 afs per day, but during the harvest, instead of a daily wage in cash, people are paid in wheat or barley. Crop production and daily labour were the main sources of income; and have a major impact on the livelihood of the "poor" of households.

The graph on the right demonstrates the percentage of households of all wealth groups engaged in crop production and agriculture labour. More (25%) of new middle and (47%) poor households were engaged in crop production in 2004 than 2003. In contrast, less (50%) of middle and less (29%) of poor households were generating an income from agricultural day labour in 2004.

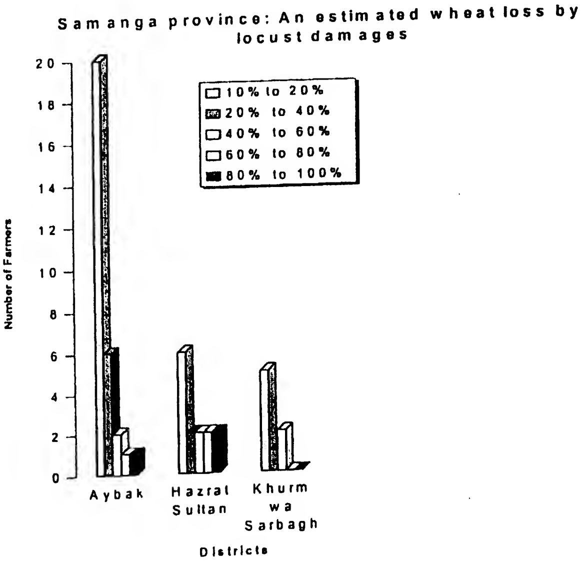


COLLECTION AND SALE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

In 2003, 14 households were involved in the collection and sale of natural resources. Most (10) were from "poor" income households, (3) households were from "middle", and (1) household was from the "wealthy" income households. In contrast, 9 households of (6) from the poor, (2) from middle and (1) from wealthy income households have collected and sold natural resources. All (9) households collected and sold bushes, asafo and animal manure. Furthermore, the data shows that two 'poor" households collected and sold Cumi. Livelihood activities were negatively impacted by recent drought. Lack of rain meant that bushes did not grow as well, and fewer animals led to a reduced amounts of dung available for collection. The future availability of these resources did not appear to be compromised since animal stocks would be replenished, and bushes are cut above the root system so that they would grow again after the rain. Despite the drought, bush prices have remained stable, but fewer households collect this resource, as market rates for day labour, are more profitable for households.

Assessment of Crop Losses

In Nawabad Qaracha Bolaq 40% of households reported 20-50% of crop losses. None of the households reported more than 20-50% crop losses.
Samangan province experienced irregular rainfall and locust attacks; but according the (GOAL locust impact assessment) survey data, locust invasions have had little effect on the crops this year (2004) in comparison to 2003 and 2002.



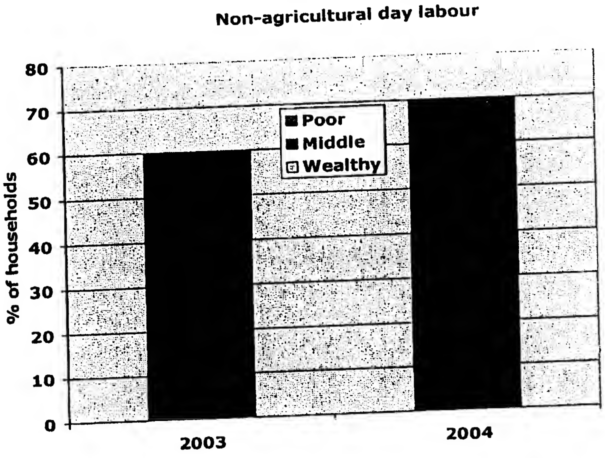
As shown on the graph to the left, 34.4% of the total farmers (90 farmers) claimed losses of 10% to 20%, whereas 10% claimed losses of 20% to 40%, 6.7% claimed losses of 40% to 60% and 3% reported losses of 60% to 80% and 80% to 100% respectively by locusts.

Locust invasions occurred in most districts of the province from March onwards, continuously almost until harvest time. The output or wheat yield was reduced substantially following the attacks and poor rainfall (particularly in Aybak and Hazrat Sultan).

LIVESTOCK: Grazing land also sustained quite serious damage following the locust invasion. At the moment, there is hardly any pasture in the province and the cattle are beginning to lose weight. In consequence, distress sales together with low demands may lead to low cattle prices.

Non-Agricultural Labour (skilled and unskilled manual labour)

In Nawabad Qaracha Bolaq, 45% of men and 60% of women households claimed manual labour as an income source in 2004 against 60% of households in 2003. As the graph to the right demonstrates, none of the wealthy households were engaged in non-agricultural day labour in 2003 and 2004. Of these men households all were from the 'poor income households. On the same line the 60% of the women households who claimed manual labour as an income source in 2004, 45% were from poor female households and 15% of middle income households.



OTHER INCOME SOURCES

The only other main income sources in Nawabad Qaracha Bolaq were loans. Loans were a major source of income for 25% of the households. Most (15%) households with loans were" poor" and (10%) were from the wealthy households.

Coping Strategies

The coping strategies included here are by no means inclusive of all strategies invoked by households to survive tough times. Instead, it focuses on behaviours predictive of declining livelihood and food security in Afghanistan that can be easily measured.

The list was divided into erosive and non-erosive coping strategies in order to understand impacts on households' future livelihood security. The division is not mutually exclusive as the loss of a bicycles, motorcycles and cars may also impact future opportunities. Similarly, the order of the list does not reflect a continuum of behaviour. The coping strategies listed are meant to be general indicators of a worsening situation. However, households experiencing chronic and transitory poverty, who engage in these activities on a regular basis.

None Erosive Coping Strategies

	2003 (%)	**2004 (%)**
Household member migrated for labour	5	50
Sons sent to work as indentured labour	5	10
Sold Carpet / Gilims from the house	25	20
Household members worked more hours to make daily expenses	10	20
Households who borrowed food from relatives to make a meal	60	65
Households who had been consuming dried bread	25	15
Household took out loan	25	65
Household who took food on credit from shop	60	70

In order to meet their expenses, less 5% households sold non-productive assets such as gillams, carpets in 2004 comparing to 2003. More (45%) of households who have household members migrated for labour and 5% of households were engaged in longer hours of work in 2004.

Food consumption patterns and sources of food are also key indicators of household vulnerability. Less 10% of the families interviewed, had been eating dried bread in 2004 compare to 2003. This clearly highlights a fluctuation situation of household food insecurity. In addition to changes in food consumption, most of the families needed external support to food needs. More 5% of the families had to borrow food from their relatives in order to make a meal in the last six months.

Erosive and Distress Coping Strategies

It is apparent that strategies adapted by households to deal with shocks varied with individuals, households and villages. In Nawabad Qaracha Bolaq, 65% of households took loans as a coping strategy, whereas 25% used loans as coping strategy to meet daily expenses in 2003, with an increase of 40%. In the same way, up to 60% of the households took food on credit in 2003, whereas 70% took food on credit from local shops in 2004 with an increase of 10%. It is apparent that both "poor" and "middle" households are extremely vulnerable as they jeopardize future production capacity to cover immediate needs.

Income Diversity and Capacity to Cope – Risk to Livelihoods

Household capacity to absorb shocks and to adapt stresses induced by climate, price instability, unemployment and complex emergencies such as political crisis. However, households with various income sources are better able to cope than households who rely on one or two income sources. The income diversity score is simply a count of the number of income sources for each household. In Nawabad Qaracha Bolaq, households had an average income diversity score of 3.4 in 2003, whereas the score has slightly increased to 3.6. In many cases the wealthier household often scores higher income diversity measures, however, in this situation, the poor and wealthy income households have the highest diversity score in comparison to middle households. Furthermore, wealthy and poor households diversity score has slightly increased in 2004, whereas middle income households' diversity score has decreased in 2004 . The main sources of income in Nawabad Qaracha Bolaq were crops, agricultural day labour, livestock production, collection and sale of natural resources, and non-agricultural day labour.

	Average Income Diversity Score	
	2003	2004
Wealth	2.7	3.3
Middle	3.8	2.4
Poor	3.4	3.2
All households	3.4	3.6

NSS METHODOLOGY OVERVIEW[1]

The National Surveillance System (NSS) is based on a sentinel site system. These sentinel sites are tracked over time to monitor changes in food security, livelihoods, and nutritional status. The sampling methodology is based on a multi-stage sample selection process and incorporates both urban and rural areas in the sample. The table and narrative steps below detail the process used to determine the stratification framework and levels of the sample.

Rural strata	Urban strata	Rural Representation and Method of Division	Urban Representation and Method of Division
Provinces	Provinces	Every province is to be represented in the surveillance system. 33 provinces are divided according to Ministry of Interior definition of provincial boundaries.	
Districts	Urban Areas	Every rural district is to be represented in the surveillance system. Rural districts are divided according to Ministry of Interior definitions, except in the cases where currently recognized local administrative boundaries differ.	Urban areas are defined as having a population over 500,000, >100 shops and permanent food market. These include Kabul, Mazar-i Sharif, Kandahar, Herat, Jalalabad, Kunduz.
Livelihood Zone	Livelihood Groupings	Districts are divided into ago-ecological or livelihood zones.	Urban centers are divided into *nahia*, which is the sub-unit of an urban area used by the Central Statistic Office. *Nahias* in the urban setting are categorized into livelihood groupings.
Sentinel Site - Villages or Mosque Areas	Sentinel Site - Urban Blocks	One settlement or mosque area within a settlement is selected from each livelihood zone as the sentinel site.	A block is selected from each of the livelihood groupings. If the block is not large enough for a sufficient sample, then a neighboring block will also be included in the sample.
Wealth groups	Not applicable	In each sentinel site settlement, a wealth group breakdown is conducted in which all the households will be categorized into three wealth groups; poor, medium, and better off.	Because people do not have detailed information on households in their blocks, it is difficult to implement a wealth group breakdown.
Households	Households	Households are randomly selected proportional to actual representation in the population of households within the three wealth groups. The number of households selected and the selection process is detailed below.	Households are randomly selected from the block.
Individuals	Individuals	Individuals are selected from each household in the survey. Selection of individuals is only necessary for measuring certain indicators (i.e. anthropometric status) and will be based on the case definition of the indicator.	

The steps for defining livelihood zones and household selection for rural application of the NSS sampling methodology are explained below, and these steps can also be applied to the corresponding urban strata discussed in the table above.

Defining Livelihood Zones within a District

The first step completed in defining a livelihood zone was to find information on the following subjects in all settlements in a district, or as many as possible.

Defining Criteria:

- Agro-ecological context (topological/geological/soil description, water, land-cover/land-use)
- Economic resources and activity (sources of income and food, access to markets)
- Services (health, education, water, roads, other services)
- People (ethnicity, number of households in settlement).

Once the information was collected, the district was separated into livelihood zones based on *agro-ecological context* and *economic resources and activity* features. *Services* and *people* features were also considered but were not usually the basis for livelihood zone distinction.[2]

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[1] Information on the methodology can be found in the NSS methodology document on http://www.mrrd.gov.af/vau/

[2] In some areas of implementation, the agro-ecological zones used by the 2002 WFP-implemented *Country-wide Food Needs Assessment* were used to define livelihood zones.

Sentinel Site Selection

Since sentinel sites are meant to be representative of their zone, the site, to the extent possible, was selected to mirror the majority of the settlements in the livelihood zone with respect to the defining criteria mentioned above. Inevitably, it is impossible to find homogeneity across all of these indicators, thus *agro-ecological context* and *economic resources and activities* were given a priority. Additional factors that were considered when choosing a sentinel site included:

- Population of sentinel site should be representative of a majority of settlements in the zone
- Distance from roads and markets relative to other villages/towns in zone
- Presence of other related surveys in order to avoid survey fatigue
- Permission by local authorities and community leaders.

Wealth Group Differentiation

As part of focus group discussions, government surveillance unit teams separately asked male and female focus group members to identify how the people in the community define wealth and then define better off, medium and poor households. Once these characteristics were agreed upon, both male and female teams used the list created in the male focus group of all households in the community to place each household into a wealth group category and then asked for the rationale behind the placement. From here male and female lists were checked to find out when the households had been assigned to a different wealth group. If households were different, male and female surveyors together had to decide on a mutually agreeable placement for the households, either by following up with focus group members or by noting that one group had a knowledge gap regarding the household under discussion.

Household Selection

For the purpose of the national surveillance system, a household is defined as a group of individuals sharing income and expenditure and that are living within the same compound. Households were randomly selected proportional to their actual representation in the population within the three wealth groups. The number of households surveyed depended on the size of the sentinel site. If the settlement had over 200 households, a mosque area or a distinct community area was selected as the sentinel site. For nomadic populations of less than 50 households, it was recommended to include all households if possible.

Total households in village	Number of households selected
< 50	All households if possible
50 – 75	20
76- 99	30
100-200	40
> 200	Choose community within village as sentinel site

Selection of Individuals

Selection of individuals within households was only necessary for measuring certain anthropometric status. In this case, all individuals in selected households meeting the case definition criteria for these indicators were included in the survey

Data Collection Instruments and Fieldwork

Data collection for the NSS was originally envisioned to occur three times a year,[3] and the fall round 2003 was the first round using standardized questionnaires. The male and female sentinel site questionnaires included focus group discussions with male and female elders. The male household questionnaire was asked to the male head of household and the female household questionnaire was asked to the female head of household. Many of the questions included in the NSS standardized questionnaires referenced the period four months prior to the survey in order to gain an understanding of issues of seasonality in relation to livelihood strategies, food security and risk to lives. The market survey questionnaire collected data at the provincial capital as well as at the main permanent food market nearest to each sentinel site on a monthly basis.

Government surveillance data collection teams consisted of one NGO supervisor, two staff from MRRD (one male and one female), two staff from MAAH (one male and one female) and two other casual staff. They were all trained on the surveillance system project as well as the implementation of the questionnaires.

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[3] Lessons learned from the fall round suggested that collecting data three times a year was neither financially feasible nor necessary for most locations. The pilot NSS collected only a second round of data in spring 2004

Time was spent working with ministry partners and other stakeholders to define case definitions for items such as morbidity, livestock diseases and livelihood strategy categories. Please see guidance notes for the questionnaires posted on http://www.mrrd.gov.af/vau/. It is worth noting here that livelihood strategies were grouped according to the following categories:

Agricultural crop production	Cultivators who own the land, sharecroppers, or farmers renting land from others for cultivation.
Agricultural day labor – casual labor	Anybody participating in the daily or casual labor related to agriculture. This could include land preparation, sowing, weeding, harvesting and post-harvest processing.
Agricultural livestock	Households generating income (cash or in-kind) from their own livestock
Carpets/handicrafts	Households that weave carpets or make handicrafts and sell or exchange them
Carpets/handicrafts – wage labor	Households that weave carpets or make handicrafts on a wage labor basis.
Shops/trader – own business	Anybody who engages in significant trade, e.g. shop or livestock trader.
Small trade related business - push carts, mobile street vendors etc.	Businesses that are smaller scale than those above, such as push carts, mobile street vendors etc.
Formal wage labor (e.g. government/ health/ education/ administrative)	
Informal wage labor (e.g. shepherd, driver)	Informal wage labor indicates that a more permanent or longer term labor contracts than daily labor.
Non-agriculture day labor (artisan and manual labor)	Non-agricultural daily labor covers a range of activities not related to agriculture, but where people normally work daily or casually.
Rental income (land, house, shops, agriculture equipment, transport vehicles)	People deriving income from the rent of land, houses, shops and equipment such as combine harvesters or tractors.
Remittances	People deriving income from family members remitting money from another country.
Take out loan	Money received on credit or loan.
Repayment of loans	Money received from someone who repaid a loan.
Begging	
Gifts/tithes/gleaning/aid	This category includes gifts received from friends, family and community members. It includes *zaqat*, gleaning rights, and aid.
Mortgaging land, house, shop	
Collection and sale of natural resources	Natural resources can be bushes, trees, mushrooms, wild plants, etc.

Data Entry and Analysis
Data was entered into a decentralized Microsoft Access database and Access reports produced in each provincial surveillance government unit. These Access reports were then used by the provincial surveillance unit to create this report and the corresponding Dari report. The findings were analysed and have been presented in three categories in order to facilitate the use of this information to inform policies and programs: Food Security, Risk to Lives and Livelihood Security.

NOTE: *These reports were compiled and analyzed as part of a multi-faceted, multi-agency pilot project, and all data and analysis should be checked against final compiled results, and additional information found in a separate document to be produced by the NSS government partners:* http://www.mrrd.gov.af/vau . Contact: amanullah.assil@mrrd.org.

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